ARABIAN Nights Entertainments:

CONSISTING OF

One Thouſand and One

STORIES,

TOLD BY

The Sultaneſs of the *Indies*, to divert the Sultan from the Execution of a Bloody Vow he had made to marry a Lady every Day, and have her cut off next Morning, to avenge himſelf for the Diſloyalty of his firſt Sultaneſs, *&c.*

CONTAINING

A better Account of the Cuſtoms, Manners, and Religion of the Eaſtern Nations, *viz. Tartars*, *Perſians*, and *Indians*, than is to be met with in any Author hitherto publiſh'd.

Tranſlated into *French* from the *Arabian* MSS. by M. *Galland*, of the Royal Academy; and now done into *Engliſh*.

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ARABIAN Nights

Entertainments:

consisting of

One Thousand and One

STORIES,

ARABIAN Nights Entertainments.

The Thirty first Night.

THE next Morning *Dinarzade* did not fail to awaken the Sultaneſs at the ordinary Time, and ſaid, Dear Siſter, If you are not aſleep, I would pray you, (until break of Day, which is near at hand) to go on with that agreeable Story you began; upon which *Scheherazade* addreſs'd the Sultan thus, Sir, with your leave, I am willing to ſatisfie my Siſter's Curioſity, and at the ſame time went on with the Story of the Three Calenders, a ſort of Mahometan Monks.

Zobeide would not take back the Money from the Porter, but ſaid, My Friend, In conſenting that you ſtay with us, I muſt forewarn you, that it's not only on Condition that you keep ſecret what we have required of you, but alſo that you obſerve exactly the Rules of good Manners, and Civility. In the mean time the

charming *Amine* put off the Apparel ſhe went abroad with, put on her Night-Gown that ſhe might be more eaſie, and cover'd the Table, which ſhe furniſh'd with ſeveral ſorts of Meat, and upon a ſide-Board ſhe ſet Bottles of Wine and Cups of Gold: Soon after the Ladies took their Places, and made the Porter ſit down by them, who was over-joy'd to ſee himſelf at Table with Three ſuch admirable Beauties. After they had eat a little, *Amine*, who ſat next the ſide-Board, took up a Bottle and Cup, fill'd out Wine, and drank firſt her ſelf, according to the Cuſtom of the *Arabians*, then ſhe fill'd the Cup to her Siſters, who drank in courſe as they ſat; and at laſt ſhe fill'd it the fourth time to the Porter, who as he received it kiſs'd *Amine*'s hand; and before he Drank ſung a Song to this purpoſe, That as the Wind brings along with it the ſweet Scents of the Perfum'd Places through which it paſſes, ſo the Wine he was going to drink coming from her Fair Hands, received a more exquiſite Taſte than what it had of its own Nature. This Song pleaſed the Ladies ſo much, that each of them Sung another in their Turn. In ſhort, they were extraordinary merry all the time of Dinner, which laſted a long while, and nothing was wanting that could make it agreeable. The day being almoſt ſpent, *Safie* ſpoke in the Name of the three Ladies, and ſays to the Porter, Ariſe and be gone, it's time for you to depart. But the Porter not willing to leave ſo good Company, cry'd, Alas Ladies, whither do you Command me to go in the Condition I am in, I am quite beſides my ſelf by what I have ſeen ſince I came hither, and having alſo drank above my Ordinary, I ſhall never find the way Home; allow

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me this Night to recover my ſelf in any place where you pleaſe; for no leſs time is neceſſary for me to come to my ſelf; but go when I will, I ſhall leave the beſt part of my ſelf behind me.

Amine pleaded a ſecond Time for the Porter, ſaying, Siſters, he is in the Right, I am pleas'd with the Requeſt, he having already diverted us ſo well, and if you'll take my Advice, or if you love me as much as I think you do, let us keep him to paſs away the remaining part of the Night. Siſter, anſwer'd *Zobeide*, we can refuſe you nothing; and then turning to the Porter, ſaid, we are willing once more to grant your Requeſt, but upon this new Condition, That what-ever we do in your Preſence, relating to our ſelves or any thing elſe, Take heed that you do not once open your Mouth to ask the reaſon of it; for if you ask queſtions about that which does not belong to you, you may come to know that which will be no way pleaſing to you; beware therefore, and do not be too curious to dive into the Motives of our Actions.

Madam, replied the Porter, I promiſe to obſerve this Condition with ſuch exactneſs, that you ſhall have no Cauſe to reproach me with breaking it, and far leſs to puniſh my Indiſcretion; my Tongue ſhall be immoveable on this Occaſion, and my Eyes like a Looking-Glaſs, which retain nothing of the Object that is ſet before it; and to ſhew you, ſays *Zobeide* with a ſerious Countenance, That what we demand of you is not a new Thing among us, Riſe up and read what is wrote over our Gate on the Inſide.

The Porter went thither and read these words, writ in large Characters of Gold, *He who speaks of things that do not concern him, shall hear things that wont please him.* Returning again to the Three Sisters, Ladies, says he, I give you my Oath, that you shall never hear me speak any thing that does not belong to me, or wherein you may have any Concern.

This Agreement being made, *Amine* brought in Supper, and after the Room was set round with Tapers, that were mix'd with *Aloes* and *Ambergreese*, which gave a most agreeable Scent as well as a delicate Light; she sat down at Table with her Sisters and the Porter. They began again to Eat and Drink, Sing, and repeat Verses. The Ladies took pleasure to Fuddle the Porter under Pretext of Causing him to drink their Healths, and abundance of witty Sentences pass'd on both sides. In short, as they were all in the best Humour of the World, they heard one knocking at the Gate. *Scheherazade* was oblig'd to stop here, because she observed Day-light appearing.

The Sultan not doubting the Sequel of this History deserved to be heard, put it off till the Day following, and so arose.

The Thirty second Night.

THE next Night being almost at an end, *Dinarzade* called to the Sultaness, For Heavens sake, Sister, if you are awake, let me pray you to continue the Story of the Three fair Ladies, I am very impatient till I know who it was that knock'd at their Gate: You shall here it immediately said she, and I am sure

ſure that what I am now going to relate, is worthy of my Lord the Sultan's Attention.

When the Ladies (ſays ſhe) heard the knocking, they all Three got up to open the Gate; but *Safie*, to whom this Office particularly did belong, was the nimbleſt; which her other two Siſters perceiving, ſat down till ſhe came back, to acquaint them who it could be that had any Buſineſs with them ſo late. *Safie* returning, ſaid, Siſters, we have here a very fine Opportunity to paſs a good part of the Night with much ſatisfaction, and if you be of the ſame Mind with me, we ſhall not let it ſlip. There are three Calenders at our Gate, at leaſt they appear to be ſuch by their Habit; but that which you will moſt admire at is, they are all three Blind of the Right Eye, and have their Heads, Beards, and Eye-brows ſhaved, and, as they ſay, are but juſt come to *Bagdad*, where they never were before; and it being Night, and not knowing where to find any Lodging, they happen'd by Chance to knock at this Gate, and pray us, for the Love of Heav'n, to have Compaſſion on them, and receive them into the Houſe; they care not what place we put them in, provided they may be under Shelter, they would be ſatisfied with a Stable: they are Young and Handſom enough, and ſeem alſo to be Men of good Senſe; but I cannot without laughing, think of their pleaſant and uniform Figure. Here *Safie* fell a Laughing ſo heartily, that it put the two Siſters and the Porter into the ſame Mood. My Dear Siſters, ſaid ſhe, are you content that they come in, it is impoſſible but with ſuch Perſons as I have already deſcribed them to be, we ſhould finiſh the Day better than we began it; they will afford us

Diverſion enough, and put us to no Charge, becauſe they deſire ſhelter only for this Night, and reſolve to leave us as ſoon as Day appears.

Zobeide and *Amine* made ſome difficulty to grant *Safie*'s Requeſt, for Reaſons they knew well enough. But ſhe having ſo great a deſire to obtain this Favour, they could not refuſe her: Go then, ſays *Zobeide*, and bring them in, but forget not to acquaint them that they muſt not ſpeak of any thing which does not concern them, and cauſe them to read what is wrote over the Gate. *Safie* ran out with a great deal of Joy, and in a little while after return'd with the three Calenders in her Company.

At their Entrance they made a profound Bow to the Ladies, who roſe up to receive them, told them moſt obligingly that they were very Welcome, that they were glad to have met with an Opportunity to oblige them, and to contribute towards relieving them from the Fatigue of their Journey, and at laſt invited them to ſit down with them.

The Magnificence of the place, and the Civility of the Ladies, made the Calenders to conceive a mighty Idea of their fine Landladies: But before they ſat down, having by chance caſt their Eye upon the Porter, whom they ſaw clad almoſt like one of thoſe other Calenders, with whom they are in Controverſy about ſeveral Points of Diſcipline, becauſe they neither ſhave their Beards nor Eye-brows; one of them ſaid, Look here, I believe we have got one of our revolted *Arabian* Brethren.

The Porter being half aſleep, and having his Head pretty warm with Wine, was affronted at thoſe words, and with a fierce Look, without

without ſtirring from his place, anſwered, Sit you down, and don't meddle with what does not concern you; Have you not read the Inſcription over the Gate? Do not pretend to make People live after your Faſhion, but follow ours.

Honeſt Man, ſays the Calender, do not put your ſelf in a Paſſion, we ſhould be very ſorry to give you the leaſt Occaſion, but on the contrary, are ready to receive your Commands; upon which to avoid all Quarrels, the Ladies interpos'd, and pacified them. When the Calenders were ſat at Table, the Ladies ſerv'd them with Meat; and *Safie* being moſt pleas'd with them, did not let them want for Drink.

Scheherazade ſtopt her Diſcourſe, becauſe ſhe ſaw Day appear, and the Sultan got up to follow his Affairs, and promiſed to hear the reſt of the Story next Day: For he had a great deſire to know why thoſe three Calenders were Blind, and all Three of the ſame Eye.

The Thirty third Night.

AN Hour before Day, *Dinarzade* being awake, ſaid to the Sultaneſs, Dear Siſter, Pray let me know what paſt between the Ladies and the Calanders; with all my Heart, replied *Scheherazade*, and continued her Story in the manner following.

After the Calenders had Eat and Drank liberally, they ſignified to the Ladies, that they had a great deſire to entertain them with a Conſort of Muſick, if they had any Inſtruments in the Houſe, and would cauſe them to be brought 'em: They willingly accepted the

proffer, and fair *Safie* going to fetch them, return'd again in a Moment, and preſented them with a Flute of her own Country Faſhion, another of the *Perſian* ſort, and a Tabor. Each Man took the Inſtrument he lik'd, and all Three together began to play a Tune. The Ladies who knew the words of a merry Song that ſuited the Air, join'd the Conſort with their Voices; but the words of the Song made them now and then ſtop, and fall into exceſſive Laughter.

At the height of this Diverſion, and when the Company was in the midſt of their Jollity, ſome Body knocks at the Gate; *Safie* left off ſinging, and went to ſee who it was: but, Sir, ſays *Scheherezade* to the Sultan, It is fit your Majeſty ſhould know why this Knocking happen'd ſo late at the Ladies Houſe, and the Reaſon was thus. The Calife, *Haroun Alraſhild*, was accuſtomed to walk abroad in Diſguiſe very often by Night, that he might ſee, with his own Eyes, if every thing was quiet in the City, and that no Diſorders were committed in it.

This Night the Calife went out pretty early on his Rambles, accompanied with *Giafar* his Grand-Viſier, and *Meſrour* the Chief of the Eunuchs of his Palace, all diſguiſed in Merchants Habit; and paſſing through the Street where the three Ladies dwelt, he heard the Sound of the Muſick, and great fits of Laughter: Upon which he commanded the Viſier to knock, becauſe he would go in to know the Reaſon of that Jollity. The Viſier told him in vain, that it was ſome Women a Merry-making, that without queſtion their Heads were warm with Wine, and that it would not be proper he ſhould expoſe himſelf to be Affronted by

by them: beſides, it was not yet an unlawful Hour, and therefore he ought not to diſturb them in their Mirth. No matter, ſaid the Caliſe, I command you to knock. So it was the Grand-Viſier *Giafar* that knock'd at the Ladies Gate, by the Caliſe's Order, becauſe he himſelf would not be known. *Safie* open'd the Gate, and the Viſier perceiving by the Light ſhe held in her Hand, that ſhe was an incomparable Beauty, he acted his Part very well, and with a very low Bow and reſpectful Behaviour, told her, Madam, we are three Merchants of *Mouſſol*, that arrived about ten Days ago with rich Merchandize, which we have in a Warehouſe at a *Khan* [or Inn] where we have alſo our Lodging. We happen'd this Day to be with a Merchant of this City, who invited us to a Treat at his Houſe, where we had a ſplendid Entertainment; and the Wine having put us in Humour, he ſent for a Company of Dancers: Night being come on, and the Muſick and Dancers, making a great Noiſe, the Watch came by in the mean time, cauſed the Gate to be open'd, and ſome of the Company to be taken up; but we had the good Fotune to eſcape, by getting over a Wall. Now, ſaith the Viſier, being Strangers and ſomewhat overcome with Wine, we are afraid of meeting another, or perhaps the ſame Watch, before we get Home to our *Khan*, which lies a good way from hence. Beſides, when we come there the Gates will be ſhut, and not open'd till Morning: Wherefore, Madam, hearing as we paſt this way, the ſound of Muſick, we ſuppoſed you were not yet going to Reſt, and made bold to knock at your Gate, to beg the Favour of Lodging our ſelves in this

Houſe till Morning, and if you think us worthy of your good Company, we will endeavour to contribute to your Diverſion what lies in our Power, to make ſome amends for the Interruption we have given you; if not, we only beg the Favour of ſtaying this Night under your Porch.

Whilſt *Giafar* held this Diſcourſe, fair *Safie* had time to obſerve the Viſier and his two Companions, whom he ſaid to be Merchants like himſelf, and told them, that ſhe was not the Miſtreſs of the Houſe; but if they would have a Minutes Patience, ſhe would return with an Anſwer.

Safie acquainted her Siſters with the Matter, who conſider'd for ſome time what to conclude upon: But being naturally of a good Diſpoſition, and having granted the ſame Favour to the three Calenders, at laſt they conſented to let them in; *Scheherazade* intending to continue her Story, ſaw Day-light appear, which made her break off; but the Quality of theſe new Actors which the Sultaneſs had brought upon the Stage, whetted the Curioſity of *Schachriar*, who looking for ſome ſingular Event, expected the next Night with much impatience.

The Thirty fourth Night.

Dinarzade being as curious as the *Sultan*, to know what the Arrival of the Caliſe at the Houſe of thoſe three Ladies might produce, did not forget to awaken the *Sultaneſs* very early next Morning, and pray'd her earneſtly to reſume the Story of the *Calanders*, which *Scheherazade*, with leave of the *Sultan*, purſued in the following manner.

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The Caliſe, his Grand Viſier, and the Chief of the Eunuchs, being introduc'd by the Fair *Safie*, very courteouſly ſaluted the Ladies and the *Calenders:* The Ladies returned them the like Civility, ſuppoſing them to be Merchants. *Zobiede*, as the Chief, ſays to them with a grave and ſerious Countenance, which was natural to her, *You are very Welcome.* But before I proceed further, I hope you will not take it ill if we deſire one Favour of you. Alaſs! ſaid the Viſier, what Favour? We can refuſe nothing to ſuch fair Ladies. *Zobeide* replied, *It is that you would only have Eyes, but no Tongues, that you put no Queſtion to us about the Reaſon of any thing you may happen to ſee, and not to ſpeak of any thing that does not concern you, leaſt you come to hear that which will by no means pleaſe you.* Madam, replied the Viſier, *You ſhall be obey'd.* We are not Cenſorious nor impertinently Curious; 'tis enough for us to take notice of that which concerns us, without medling with that which does not belong to us; upon this they all ſat down, and the Company being united, they Drank to the Health of the New-Comers.

While the Viſier *Giafar* entertain'd the Ladies in Diſcourſe, the Caliſe could not forbear to admire their extraordinary Beauty, graceful Behaviour, pleaſant Humours, and ready Wit; on the other hand, nothing was more ſurprizing to him than the Calenders, being all three blind of the Right Eye. He would gladly have been inform'd of this Singularity; but the Conditions ſo lately impoſed upon himſelf and his Companions, would not allow him to ſpeak. This, with the Richneſs of the Furniture, the exact Order of every thing, and Neatneſs of the

Houſe,

Houſe, made him to think it was ſome encha n ted Place.

Their Entertainment happening to be upon Divertiſements, and different ways of making merry, the Calenders aroſe, and danced after their Faſhion, which augmented the good Opinion the Ladies had conceived of them, and procur'd them the Eſteem of the Caliſe and his Companions.

When the three Calenders had made an end of their Dance, *Zobeide* aroſe, and taking *Amine* by the Hand, ſaid, *Pray Sifter riſe up*, for the Company will not take it ill if we uſe our Freedom, and their Preſence needs not hinder our Performance of what we are wont to do. *Amine* by underſtanding her Siſters meaning, roſe up from her Seat, carried away the Diſhes, the Table, the Flasks and Cups, together with the Inſtruments which the Calenders had played upon.

Safie was not idle, but ſwept the Room, put every thing again in its Place, ſnuff'd the Candles, and put freſh Aloes and Ambergreeſe to them, and then pray'd the three Calenders to ſit down upon the Sofa on one ſide, and the Caliſe with his Companions on the other: As to the Porter, ſhe ſays to him, Get up and prepare your ſelf to ſerve in what we are going about; a Man like you, that is as one of the Family, ought not to be idle. The Porter being ſomewhat recovered from his Wine, gets up immediately, and having tied the Sleeve of his Gown to his Belt, anſwers, *Here am I*, ready to obey your Commands in any thing. That's very well, reply'd *Safie*, ſtay till you are ſpoke to, you ſhall not be idle very long. A little time after *Amine* came in with a Chair, which

ſhe

ſhe placed in the middle of the Room; and ſo went to a Cloſet, which having opened, ſhe beckoned to the Porter, and ſays to him, *Come hither and help me*, which he obeying, entred the Cloſet, and returned immediately, leading two black Bitches, with each of them a Collar and Chain; they look'd as if they had been ſeverely whipt with Rods, and he brought them into the middle of the Room.

Then *Zobeide* ariſing from her Seat between the Calenders and the Caliſe, march'd very gravely towards the Porter, Come on, ſays ſhe, with a great Sigh, let us perform our Duty; then tucking up her Sleeves above her Elbows, and receiving a Rod from *Safie*, Porter, ſaid ſhe, deliver one of the Bitches to my Siſter *Amine*, and come to me with the other.

The Porter did as he was commanded, and the Bitch that he held in his Hand begun to cry, and turning towards *Zobeide*, held her Head up in a begging Poſture; but *Zobeide* having no regard to the ſad Countenance of the Bitch (which would have mov'd Pity) nor her Cries that ſounded through all the Houſe, whipt her with the Rod till ſhe was out of Breath; and having ſpent her Strength that ſhe could ſtrike no more, ſhe threw down the Rod, and taking the Chain from the Porter, lift up the Bitch by her Paws, and looking upon her with a ſad and pitiful Countenance, they both wept: After which *Zobeide* with her Handkerchief wiped the Tears from the Bitch's Eyes, kiſs'd her, return'd the Chain to the Porter, bid him carry her to the Place whence he took her, and bring her the other. The Porter led back the whipt Bitch to the Cloſet, and receiving the other from *Amine*, preſented her to *Zobeide*, who bid

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the Porter hold her as he did the firſt, took up the Rod, and treated her after the ſame manner; and when ſhe had alſo wept with her, dried her Eyes and kiſs'd her, returned her to the Porter; but lovely *Amine* ſpared him the trouble of leading her back into the Cloſet, and did it her ſelf. The three Calenders, and the Calife with his Companions, were extreamly ſurpriz'd at this Execution, and could not comprehend why *Zobeide*, after having ſo furiouſly whipt thoſe two Bitches, that by the Muſulman-Religion are reckon'd unclean Animals, ſhould cry with them, wipe off their Tears, and kiſs them; they mutter'd among themſelves, and the Calife, who being more impatient than the reſt, long'd exceedingly to be inform'd of the Cauſe of ſo ſtrange an Action, could not forbear making ſigns to the Viſier to ask the Queſtion; the Viſier turn'd his Head another way; but being preſs'd by repeated Signs, he anſwered by others, *That it was not yet time for the Calife to ſatisfie his Curioſity.*

Zobeide ſat ſtill ſome time in the middle of the Room, where ſhe had wipt the two Bitches, to recover her ſelf from her Fatigue; and fair *Safie* called to her, *Dear Sifter, will you not be pleaſed to return to your Place that I may alſo act my Part.* Yes, Siſter, replied *Zobeide*, and then went and ſat down upon the Sofa, having the Calife, *Giafar* and *Meſrour* on her Right Hand, and the three Calenders with the Porter on her Left.

Here, ſays *Scheherazade* to the Sultan, *Sir, What has been hitherto told your Majeſty, muſt, without doubt, appear very ſtrange*; but what yet remains is more wonderful, and I am perſwaded your Majeſty will think ſo, if you will be pleaſed to give me leave to finiſh this Story next Night;

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the Sultan agreed to it, and got up becauſe it was Day.

The Thirty Fifth Night.

Dinarzade was no ſooner awake next Morning, but ſhe called, Siſter, If you are not aſleep, Pray continue the fine Story of the three Siſters: The Sultaneſs remembring where ſhe left off, addreſſed her Speech to the Sultan, and went on as follows; Sir, After *Zobeide* ſat down, the whole Company was ſilent for a while; at laſt *Safie*, ſitting on a Chair in the middle of the Room, ſpoke to her Siſter *Amine*, Dear Siſter, I conjure you to riſe up, you know well enough what I would ſay; *Amine* aroſe and went into another Cloſet near to that were the Bitches were, and brought out a Caſe covered with yellow Sattin, richly embroider'd with Gold and green Silk; ſhe came near *Safie* and opened the Caſe, from whence ſhe took a Lute and preſented her; and after ſome time ſpent in tuning it, *Safie* began to play, and accompanying it with her Voice, ſhe ſung a Song about the Torments that Abſence creates to Lovers, with ſo much Sweetneſs, that it charm'd the Caliſe and all the Company. Having ſung with a great deal of Paſſion and Action, ſhe ſaid to lovely *Amine*, Pray take it Siſter, for I can do no more, my Voice fails me; oblige the Company with a Tune and a Song in my room. Very willingly, replied *Amine*, who taking the Lute from her Siſter *Safie*, ſat down in her Place.

Amine, after ſome ſmall Trial, to ſee whether the Inſtrument was in Tune, played and ſung almoſt as long upon the ſame Subject, but with ſo much

much Vehemency, and was ſo much affected, or rather tranſported by the Words of the Song, that her Strength fail'd her as ſhe made an end of it.

Zobeide, willing to teſtifie her Satisfaction, ſaid, Siſter, you have done Wonders, and we may eaſily ſee that you have a feeling of the Grief you have expreſt ſo much to the Life. *Amine* was prevented from anſwering this Civility, her Heart being ſo ſenſibly touch'd at the ſame Moment, that ſhe was oblig'd, for Air, to uncover her Neck and her Breaſt, which did not appear ſo fair as might have been expected from ſuch a Lady as ſhe; but on the contrary, black and full of Scars, which frightned all the Spectators. However, this gave her no Eaſe, but ſhe fell into a Fit. Here *Scheherazade* ſtop'd, ſaying, Sir I had almoſt forgot that it is Day; With this ſhe ended her Diſcourſe, and the Sultan aroſe from Bed. And though this Prince had not reſolv'd to defer the Death of the Sultaneſs, he could not at this time have reſolv'd to take away her Life; his Curioſity was ſo great to hear out this Story, which had ſo many unheard of Events.

The Thirty Sixth Night.

Dinarzade awak'd her Siſter as formerly, ſaying, Dear Siſter, I pray you to continue the Story of the Ladies and the Calenders; upon which ſhe reſum'd her Diſconrſe in manner following.

While *Zobeide* and *Safie* ran to help their Siſter, one of the Calenders could not forbear to ſay, We had better have ſlept in the Streets than

than have come hither, had we thought to have ſeen ſuch Spectacles. The Caliſe, who heard this, came up to him, and the other Calenders, and ask'd them what might be the meaning of all this: They anſwered, Sir, we know no more than you do. What, ſays the Caliſe, are not you of the Family? Nor can you reſolve us concerning the two Black Bitches, and the Lady that fainted away, and has been ſo baſely abuſed? Sir, ſays the Calenders, This is the firſt time that ever we were in this Houſe, and came in but a few Minutes before you.

This increaſed the Caliſe's Aſtoniſhment: It may be, ſays he, this other Man that is with you may know ſomething of it. One of the Calenders made a ſign for the Porter to come near; and ask'd him, whether he knew why thoſe two black Bitches had been whipt, and why *Amine's* Boſom was ſo ſcarr'd. Sir, ſaid the Porter, I can ſwear by Heaven, that if you know nothing of all this, I know as little as you do. 'Tis true, I live in this City, but I never was in the Houſe till now, and if you are ſurpriz'd to ſee me here, I am as much to find my ſelf in your Company; and that which increaſes my Wonder is, That I have not ſeen one Man with theſe Ladies.

The Caliſe and his Company, as well as the Calenders, ſuppoſed the Porter had been one of the Family, and hop'd he could inform them of what they deſired to know; but finding he could not, and reſolving to ſatisfie his Curioſity, coſt what it would, he ſays to the reſt, Look ye, we are here ſeven Men, and have but three Women to deal with, let us try if we can oblige them to ſatisfie us, and if they refuſe it by

by fair means we are in a Capacity to force them to it.

The Grand Viſier *Giafar* was againſt this Method, and ſhow'd the Caliſe what might be the Conſequence of it; but without diſcovering the Prince to the Caſenders, addreſs'd him as if he had been a Merchant, thus, Sir, conſider, I pray you, that our Reputation lies at ſtake, you know very well upon what Conditions theſe Ladies were willing to receive us, and that we alſo agreed to them; what will they ſay of us if we break them? We ſhall be ſtill more to blame if any Miſchief befall us, for it is not likely that they would demand ſuch a Promiſe of us, if they did not know themſelves in a Condition to make us repent the breaking of it.

Here the Viſier took the Caliſe aſide, and whiſper'd to him thus; Sir, The Night will ſoon be at an end, and if your Majeſty will only be pleaſed to have ſo much Patience, I will take theſe Ladies to Morrow Morning, and bring them before your Throne, where you may be inform'd of all that you deſire to know. Tho' this Advice was very judicious, the Caliſe rejected it, bid the Viſier hold his Tongue, and ſaid, He could not ſtay till then, but would have Satisfaction in the matter preſently.

The next Buſineſs was to know who ſhould carry the Meſſage. The Caliſe endeavour'd to prevail with the Calenders to ſpeak firſt, but they excuſed themſelves, and at laſt they agreed that the Porter ſhould be the Man; and as they were conſulting how to word this fatal Queſtion, *Zobeide* returning from her Siſter *Amine*, who was recover'd of her Fit, drew near them: And having over-heard them, ſpeaking pretty loud

loud, and with ſome Paſſion, ſays, Gentlemen, What is the Subject of your Diſcourſe, what are you diſputing about?

The Porter anſwer'd immediately, Madam, Theſe Gentlemen pray you to let them underſtand wherefore you wept with your two Bitches, after you whip'd them ſo ſeverely, and how that Lady's Boſom, who lately fainted away, comes to be ſo full of Scars. This is what I am order'd to ask in their Name.

At theſe words *Zobeide* look'd with a ſtern Countenance, and turning towards the Caliſe and the reſt of the Company; Is this true, Gentlemen, ſays ſhe, that you have given him order to ask me this Queſtion? All of them, except the Viſier *Giafar*, who ſpoke not one word, anſwer'd, Yes. On which ſhe told them, in a Tone that ſufficiently expreſs'd her Reſentment, Before we granted you the Favour of being received into our Houſe, and to prevent all Occaſion of Trouble from you, becauſe we are alone, we did it upon condition that you ſhould not ſpeak of any thing that did not concern you, leaſt you might come to hear that which would not pleaſe you; and yet after having received and entertain'd you as well as poſſibly we could, you make no ſcruple to break your Promiſe. 'Tis true, that our eaſie Temper has occaſion'd this, but that ſhall not excuſe you, for your Proceedings are very unhandſome. As ſhe ſpoke theſe words, ſhe gave three hard Knocks with her Foot, and clapping her Hands as often together, cry'd, *Come quick:* Upon this a Door flew open, and ſeven ſtrong, ſturdy black Slaves, with Scimeters in their Hands, ruſh'd in, every one ſeized a Man, threw him on the Ground, and dragg'd him

into

into the middle of the Room in order to cut off their Heads.

We may eaſily conceive what a Fright the Caliſe was in, he then repented, but too late, that he had not taken his Viſier's Advice. In the mean time this unhappy Prince, *Giafar*, *Meſrour*, the Porter, and the Calenders, were upon the Point of loſing their Lives by their indiſcreet Curioſity. But before they would ſtrike the fatal Blow, one of the Slaves ſays to *Zobeide* and her Siſters; High, Mighty, and Adorable Miſtreſſes, Do you command us to cut their Throats? Stay, ſays *Zobeide*, I muſt examine them firſt. The frightened Porter interrupted her thus. In the Name of Heaven don't make me die for another Man's Crime, I am Innocent, they are to Blame: Alas! ſays he, crying, How pleaſantly did we paſs our time; thoſe blind Calenders are the Cauſe of this Misfortune; there's no Town in the World but goes to ruin where-ever theſe inauſpicious Fellows come. Madam, I beg you not to deſtroy the Innocent with the Guilty, and conſider, that it is more glorious to Pardon ſuch a Wretch as I, who have no way to help my ſelf, than to ſacrifice me to your Reſentment.

Zobeide, notwithſtanding her Anger, could not but Laugh within her ſelf at the Porter's Lamentation: But without anſwering him, ſhe ſpoke a ſecond time to the reſt; Anſwer me, ſays ſhe, and tell me who you are, otherwiſe you ſhall not live one Moment longer. I cannot believe you to be honeſt Men, nor Perſons of Authority or Diſtinction in your own Countries; for if you were, you would have been more modeſt and more reſpectful to us.

The

The Caliſe, who was naturally impatient, was infinitely more fretted than the reſt, to find his Life to depend upon the Command of a Lady juſtly incens'd; but he began to conceive ſome Hopes, when he ſaw ſhe would know who they all were: For he imagin'd ſhe wou'd not take away his Life, when once ſhe came to be inform'd who he was; therefore he ſpoke with a low Voice to the Viſier, who was near him, to declare ſpeedily who he was: But the Viſier being more Prudent, reſolv'd to ſave his Maſter's Honour, and not let the World know the Affront he had brought upon himſelf by his own Weakneſs; and therefore anſwer'd, *We have what we deſerve.* But if he would have ſpoke in Obedience to the Caliſe, *Zobeide* did not give him time: For having turn'd to the Calenders, and ſeeing them all three Blind of one Eye, ſhe ask'd if they were Brothers. One of them anſwer'd, No, Madam, no otherwiſe than as we are Calenders; that is to ſay, As we obſerve the ſame Rules. Were you born Blind of the Right Eye, replied ſhe? No, Madam, anſwers he, I loſt my Eye in ſuch a ſurprizing Adventure, that it would be inſtructive to every Body were it in Writing: After that Misfortune I ſhav'd my Beard and Eye-brows, and took the Habit of a Calender, which I now wear.

Zobeide ask'd the other two Calenders the ſame Queſtion, and had the ſame Anſwer; but he who ſpoke laſt added, Madam, to ſhew you that we are no common Fellows, and that you may have ſome Conſideration for us, Be pleas'd to know, that we are all three Sons of Kings; and though we never met together till this Evening, yet we have had time enough to make

make that known to one another; and I assure you that the Kings from whom we derive our Being, made some Noise in the World.

At this Discourse *Zobeide* asswag'd her Anger, and said to the Slaves, Give them their Liberty a while, but stay here. Those who tell us their History, and the Occasion of their coming, do them no hurt, let them go where they please; but don't spare those who refuse to give us that Satisfaction. Here *Scheherazade* stop'd, and her Silence as well as Day-light giving the Sultan to know, that it was time for him to rise, he got up, and resolv'd to hear the rest of the Story next Night; for he was impatient to know who these three one Ey'd Calenders were.

The Thirty seventh Night.

Dinarzade, who also took a great deal of Pleasure to hear the Sultaness's Stories, says to her, about the close of the following Night, Dear Sister, if you be not asleep, I conjure you to go on with the agreeable Story of the three Calenders.

Scheherazade demanded leave of the Sultan, and having obtain'd it; Sir, says she, The three Calenders, the Calise, the Grand Visier *Giafar*, the Eunuch *Mesrour* and the Porter, were all in the middle of the Hall, sat upon a Foot Carpet in Presence of the three Ladies, who sat upon a Sofa, and the Slaves stood ready to do whatever their Mistresses should command.

The Porter understanding that he might rid himself of his Danger, by telling his History, spoke first, and said, Madam, You know my History

Hiſtory already, and the Occaſion of my coming hither; ſo that what I have to ſay will be very ſhort. My Lady, your Siſter there call'd me this Morning, at the place where I plied as Porter, to ſee if any Body would imploy me, that I might get Bread. I follow'd her to a Vintners, then to an Herb Womans, then to one that ſold Oranges, Lemmons and Citrons, then to a Grocers, next to a Confectioners, and a Druggiſts, with my Basket upon my Head as full as I was able to carry it; then I came hither, where you had the Goodneſs to ſuffer me to continue till now, a Favour that I ſhall never forget. This, Madam, is my Hiſtory.

When the Porter had done, *Zobeide* ſays to him, Go, march, let's ſee you no more here. Madam, replies the Porter, I beg you to let me ſtay, it would not be juſt, after the reſt have had the Pleaſure to hear my Hiſtory, that I ſhould not alſo have the Satisfaction to hear theirs. And having ſpoke thus, ſat him down at the end of the Sofa, glad at the Heart to have eſcap'd the Danger that had frightned him ſo much. After him one of the three Calenders directing his Speech to *Zobeide*, as the Principal of the three Ladies, and the Perſon that commanded him to ſpeak, begun his Story thus.

The Hiſtory of the Firſt Calender, a King's Son.

MADAM, in order to inform you how I loſt my Right Eye, and why I was obliged to put my ſelf into a Calender's Habit: I muſt tell you, that I am a King's Son born,

the

the King my Father had a Brother that reigned as he did, over a Neigbouring Kingdom; and the Prince his Son and I wepe almoſt of an Age.

After I had Learned all my Exerciſes, and that the King my Father granted me ſuch Liberty as ſuited my Dignity, I went orderly every year to ſee my Uncle, at whoſe Court I diverted my ſelf during a Month or Two, and then returned again to my Father's. Theſe ſeveral Journies gave Occaſion of contracting a very firm and particular Friendſhip between the Prince my Couſin and my ſelf. The laſt time I ſaw him he received me with greater demonſtrations of Tenderneſs than he had done at any time before; and reſolving one Day to give me a Treat, he made extraordinary Preparations for that purpoſe. We continued a long while at Table, and after we had both Supp'd very well; Couſin (ſays he) you will hardly be able to gueſs how I have been employ'd ſince your laſt Departure from hence, now about a Year paſt. I have had a great many Men at work to perfect a Deſign I have in my Mind; I have cauſed an Edifice to be built, which is now finiſhed, ſo as one may dwell in it: You will not be diſpleaſed if I ſhow it you. But firſt you are to promiſe me upon Oath, that you will keep my Secret, according to the Confidence I repoſe in you.

The Love and Familiarity that was between us would not allow me to refuſe him any thing. I very readily took the Oath he required of me; Upon which he ſays to me, Stay here till I return, I will be with you in a Moment; and accordingly he came with a Lady in his Hand, of a ſingular Beauty, and magnificently Apparell'd:

parrel'd : He did not diſcover who ſhe was, neither did I think it was Manners in me to make inquiry. We ſat down again with this Lady at Table, where we continued ſome time, entertaining our ſelves with Diſcourſes upon indifferent Subjects ; and, now and then, a full Glaſs to Drink one anothers Health. After which the Prince ſaid, Couſin, We muſt loſe no time, therefore pray oblige me to take this Lady along with you, and conduct her to ſuch a Place, where you will ſee a Tomb newly built in form of a Dome ; you will eaſily know it, the Gate is open, go in there together, and tarry till I come, which will be very ſpeedily.

Being true to my Oath, I made no further Inquiry, but took the Lady by the Hand, and by the Directions which the Prince, my Couſin, had given me, I brought her to the Place, by the Light of the Moon, without miſſing one ſtep of the way. We were ſcarcely got thither, till we ſaw the Prince following after, carrying a little pitcher with Water, a Hatchet, and a little Bag with Plaſter.

The Hatchet ſerved him to break down the empty Sepulchre in the middle of the Tomb ; he took away the Stones one after another, and laid them in a Corner : When all was taken away, he digg'd up the Ground, where I ſaw a Trap Door under the Sepulchre, which he lift up, and underneath perceived the head of a Stair-caſe leading into a Vault. Then my Couſin, ſpeaking to the Lady, ſaid, Madam, It is by this way, that we are to go to the Place I told you of : Upon which the Lady drew nigh, and went down, and the Prince began to follow after ; but turning firſt to me, ſaid, My Dear Couſin, I am infinitely oblig'd to you for

the Trouble you have been at, and I thank you. Adieu. I cried, Dear Couſin, what is the meaning of this ? Be content, replied he, You may return back the ſame way you came.

Scheherazade being come this length ſaw Day appear, which hinder'd her to pooceed any further. The Sultan got up, but long'd very much to know the Deſign of the Prince and this Lady, which ſeemed as if they had a mind to bury themſelves alive, and impatiently waited for next Night, that he might be thoroughly inform'd of it.

The Thirty Eighth Night.

Dinarzade awak'd the Sultaneſs next Night as uſual, and pray'd her to continue the Hiſtory of the firſt Calender. *Scrhahria* having alſo ſignified to the Sultaneſs, that it would be very pleaſing to him, ſhe reſum'd the Thread of her Diſcourſe as follows.

Madam, ſays the Calender to *Zobeide*, I could get nothing further from him, but was oblig'd to take leave of him. As I returned to my Uncle's Palace, the Vapours of the Wine got up into my Head ; however, I got to my Apartments, and went to Bed. Next Morning, when I awak'd, I began to reflect upon what befel me the Night before, and after recollecting all the Circumſtances of ſuch a ſingular Adventure, I fancied it was nothing but a Dream. Being full of theſe Thoughts, I ſent to ſee if the Prince, my Couſin, was ready to receive a Viſit from me ; but when they brought back word that he did not lie in his own Lodgings that Night, they knew not what was become of him, and were in much Trouble about it, I conceiv'd that the ſtrange

ſtrange Event of the Tomb was but too true. I was ſenſibly afflicted at it; and ſtealing away privately from my People, I went to the publick Burying-place, where there was a vaſt number of Tombs like that which I had ſeen: I ſpent the Day in viewing them one after another, but could not find that I ſought for; and thus I ſpent four Days ſucceſſively in vain.

You muſt know that all this while the King, my Uncle, was abſent, and had been a hunting for ſeveral Days, I grew weary of ſtaying for him; and having pray'd his Miniſters to make my Apology to him at his Return, I left his Palace, and ſet out towards my Father's Court, from which I had never been ſo long abſent before. I left the Miniſters of the King my Uncle in great Trouble to think what was become of the Prince my Couſin; but becauſe of the Oath I had made to keep his Secret, I durſt not tell them any thing of what I had ſeen or knew, in order to make them eaſie.

I arrived at my Father's Capitol, the uſual Place of his Reſidence, where, contrary to Cuſtom, I found a great Guard at the Gate of the Palace, who ſurrounded me as I entred. I ask'd the Reaſon, and the Commanding Officer replied, Prince, the Army has proclaimed the Grand Viſier King, inſtead of your Father, who is Dead, and I take you Priſoner in the Name of the New King. At theſe Words the Guards laid hold on me, and carried me before the Tyrant: I leave you to judge, Madam, how much I was ſurprized and grieved.

This Rebel Viſier had entertained a mortal Hatred againſt me of a long time, upon this Occaſion. When I was a Stripling I lov'd to ſhoot in a Croſs-bow; and being one Day upon

the Terraſs of the Palace with my Bow, a Bird happening to come by, I ſhot, but miſs'd him, and the Ball, by Misfortune, hit the Viſier, who was taking the Air upon the Terraſs of his own Houſe, and put out one of his Eyes. As ſoon as I underſtood it, I not only ſent to make my Excuſe to him, but did it in Perſon: Yet he always reſented it, and as Opportunity offer'd, made me ſenſible of it. But now, Madam, that he had me in his Power, he expreſs'd his Reſentments in a very barbarous manner; for he came to me like a Mad-man, as ſoon as ever he ſaw me, and thruſting his Finger into my Right Eye, pulled it out himſelf; and ſo Madam, I became blind of one Eye.

But the Uſurper's Cruelty did not ſtop here; he ordered me to be ſhut up in a Box, and commanded the Executioner to carry me into the Country to cut off my Head, and leave me to be devour'd by the Birds of Prey. The Hangman, and another, carried me thus ſhut up on Horſeback into the Country, in order to execute the Uſurper's barbarous Sentence; but by my Prayers and Tears I mov'd the Executioner's Compaſſion: Go, ſays he, to me, get you ſpeedily out of the Kingdom, and take heed of ever returning to it, otherwiſe you certainly meet your own Ruin, and will be the cauſe of mine. I thanked him for the Favour he did me; and as ſoon as I was left alone, I comforted my ſelf for the loſs of my Eye, by conſidering that I had very narrowly eſcaped a much greater Danger.

Being in ſuch a Condition, I could not Travel far at a Time, I retired to remote Places while it was Day, and travelled as far by Night as my Strength would allow me. At laſt I arrived in the Dominions of the King my Uncle, and came to his Capitol.

I gave him a long Detail of the Tragical Cauſe of my Return, and of the ſad Condition he ſaw me in. Alas! cries he, was it not enough for he to have loſt my Son? But muſt I alſo have News of the Death of a Brother I loved ſo dearly, and ſee you alſo reduc'd to this deplorable Condition: He told me how uneaſie he was, that he could hear nothing of his Son, notwithſtanding all the Diligence and Enquiry he could make. At theſe Words the unfortunate Father burſt forth into Tears, and was ſo much afflicted, that pitying his Grief, it was impoſſible for me to keep the Secret any longer; ſo that, notwithſtanding my Oath to the Prince my Couſin, I told the King his Father all that I knew.

His Majeſty liſten'd to me with ſome ſort of Comfort, and when I had done, Nephew, ſays he, what you tell me gives me ſome hope. I knew that my Son ordered that Tomb to be built, and I can gueſs pretty near at the Place, and with the Idea you ſtill have of it, I fancy we ſhall find it: But ſince he ordered it to be built privately, and took your Oath to keep his Secret, I am of Opinion, that we ought to go in queſt of it alone, without ſaying any thing. But he had another Reaſon for keeping the Matter ſecret, which he did not then tell me, and an Important Reaſon it was, as you will perceive by the Sequel of my Diſcourſe.

We both of us diſguis'd our ſelves, and went out by a Door of the Garden which open'd into the Field, and ſoon found what we ſought for. I knew the Tomb, and was ſo much the more rejoyc'd at it, becauſe I had formerly ſought it a long time in vain. We entred, and found the Iron Trap pulled down upon the Entrance of

the Stair-Case; we had much ado to raise it, because the Prince had fasten'd it on the inside with the Water and Mortar formerly mention'd; but at last we did get it up.

The King, my Uncle, went down first, I follow'd, and we went down about 50 Steps. When we came to the Foot of the Stairs, we found a sort of Anti-Chamber full of a thick Smoak, and ill Scent, which obscur'd the Lamp that gave a very fine Light.

From this Anti-Chamber we came into another, very large, supported by great Columns, and lighted by several Branch'd Candlesticks. There was a Cistern in the middle, and Provisions of several sorts standing on one side of it; but we were very much surpriz'd to see no Body. Before us there appeared an high Sofa, which we mounted by several Steps, and over this there appeared a very large Bed with the Curtains drawn close. The King went up, and opening the Curtains, perceived the Prince, his Son, and the Lady in Bed together, but burnt and changed to a Coal, as if they had been thrown into a great Fire, and taken out again before they were consum'd.

But that which surprized me most of all, was, that at this Spectacle, which fill'd me with Horrour, the King my Uncle, instead of testifying his sorrow to see the Prince, his Son, in such a frightful Condition, spit on his Face, and says to him with an angry Air, This is the Punishment of this World, but that of the other will last to Eternity; and not content with this, he pull'd off his Sandal, and gave his Son a great blow on the Cheek with it.

But Sir, says *Scheherazade*, it is Day, I am sorry Your Majesty's Time will not allow you to hear

hear me further: This History appearing very ſtrange to the Sultan, he got up and reſolv'd to hear the reſt of it next Night.

Thirty Ninth Night.

Dinarzade being awake ſooner than ordinary, called to her Siſter *Scheherazade*, My good Sultaneſs, ſaid ſhe, I pray you make an end of the Story of the firſt Calender, for I'm ready to die with impatience till I know the iſſue of it. Very well then, ſaid *Scheherazade*, You remember how the firſt Calender continued his Story to *Zobeide*; I cannot enough expreſs, Madam (ſaid he) how much I was aſtoniſh'd when I ſaw the King my Uncle, abuſe the Prince his Son thus after he was Dead. Sir, ſaid I, whatever Grief this diſmal Sight is capable to impreſs upon me, I am forc'd to ſuſpend it on purpoſe to ask your Majeſty what Crime the Prince my Couſin may have committed, that his Corps ſhould deſerve this ſort of Treatment. Nephew, replied the King, I muſt tell you, that my Son (who is unworthy of that Name) loved his Siſter from his Infancy, and ſo ſhe did him: I did not hinder their growing Love, becauſe I could not foreſee the pernicious Conſequence of it. This Tenderneſs encreaſed as they grew in Years, and came to ſuch a Head, that I dreaded the end of it at laſt. I applied ſuch Remedies as were in my Power; I not only gave my Son a ſevere Reprimand in private, laying before him the foulneſs of the Paſſion he was entertaining, and the eternal Diſgrace he would bring upon my Family, if he perſiſted in ſuch criminal Cour-

ſes; but I alſo repreſented the ſame thing to my Daughter; and beſides, I ſhut her up ſo cloſe, that ſhe could have no Converſation with her Brother. But that unfortunate Creature had ſwallowed ſo much of the Poiſon, that all the Obſtacles which by my Prudence I could lay in the way, ſerved only the more to inflame their Love.

My Son being perſwaded of his Siſter's conſtancy, on pretence of building a Tomb, caus'd this ſubterraneous Habitation to be made, in hopes to find one Day or other, an Opportunity to poſſeſs himſelf of that Object which was the Cauſe of his Flame, and to bring her hither. He laid hold on the time of my Abſence, to enter by Force into the place of his Siſter's Confinement: But that is a thing which my Honour would not ſuffer me to make Publick. And after ſo damnable an Action he came and incloſed himſelf and her in this place, which he has ſupplied as you ſee with all ſorts of Proviſions, that he might enjoy his deteſtable Pleaſures for a long time, which ought to be a ſubject of Horror to all the World: But God, that would not ſuffer ſuch an Abomination, has juſtly puniſh'd them both. At theſe words he melted into Tears, and I joined mine with his.

After a while caſting his Eyes upon me, Dear Nephew, cry'd he, embracing me, if I have loſt an unworthy Son, I ſhall happily find in you what will better ſupply his place: And upon ſome other Reflections he made on the doleful End of the Prince and the Princeſs his Daughter, we both fell into a new fit of weeping.

We went up the ſame Stairs again, and departed at laſt from that diſmal Place. We let down again the Trap Door, and covered it with Earth,

Earth, and ſuch other Materials as the Tomb was built of, on purpoſe to hide, as much as lay in our Power, ſo terrible an Effect of the Wrath of God.

We had not been very long got back to the Palace unperceived by any one, but we heard a confuſed Noiſe of Trumpets, Drums, and other Inſtruments of War: We ſoon underſtood by the thick Cloud of Duſt, which almoſt darkned the Air, that it was the Arrival of a formidable Army. And it prov'd to be the ſame Viſier that had dethroned my Father, and uſurped his Throne, who with a vaſt number of Troops, was come alſo to poſſeſs himſelf of that of the King my Uncle.

That Prince, who then had only his uſual Guards about him, could not reſiſt ſo many Enemies; they inveſted the City, and the Gates being open'd to them without any Reſiſtance, they very ſoon became Maſters of the City, and broke into the Palace where the King my Uncle was, who defended himſelf till he was kill'd, and ſold his Life at a dear Rate: For my part, I fought as well as I could for a while, but ſeeing we were forced to ſubmit to a ſuperior Power, I thought on my Retreat and Safety, which I had the good Fortune to effect by ſome back Ways, and got to one of the King's Servants, on whoſe Fidelity I could depend.

Being thus ſurrounded with Sorrows, and perſecuted by Fortune, I had recourſe to a Stratagem which was the only means left me to ſave my Life; I cauſed my Beard and Eye-brows to be ſhav'd, and putting on a Calender's Habit, I paſs'd unknown by any, out of the City: After that, by degrees, I found it eaſie to get out of my Uncle's Kingdom, by taking the By-roads.

I avoided paſſing through Towns, until I was got into the Empire of the mighty Governor of the Muſſelmen, the Glorious and Renown'd Calif *Haroun Alraſhid*, when I thought my ſelf out of Danger, and conſidering what I was to do, I reſolv'd to come to *Bagdad*, intending to throw my ſelf at that Monarch's Feet, whoſe Generoſity is every where Applauded. I ſhall move him to Compaſſion, ſaid I to my ſelf, by the Relation of my ſurprizing Misfortunes, and without doubt he will take Pity of ſuch an unfortunate Prince, and not ſuffer me to implore his Aſſiſtance in vain.

In ſhort, after a Journey of ſeveral Months I arrived Yeſterday at the Gate of this City, into which I entred about the Dusk of the Evening, and ſtanding ſtill a little while to revive my Spirits, and to conſider on which haud I was to turn, this other Calender you ſee here next to me came alſo along; he ſaluted me, and I him: You appear, ſaid I, to be a Stranger as I am: You are not miſtaken, replied he. He had no ſooner return'd this Anſwer, but this third Calender you ſee there overtook us. He ſaluted us and told us, He was a Stranger newly come to *Bagdad*; ſo that as Brethren we joined together, reſolving not to ſeparate from one another.

Mean while it was late, and we knew not where to ſeek a Lodging in a City where we had no Acquaintance, or had ever been before. But good Fortune having brought us before your Gate, we made bold to knock, when you received us with ſo much Kindneſs, that we are incapable to return you ſuitable Thanks. This, Madam, (ſaid he) is in Obedience to your Commands, the Account I am to give you why.

I loſt

I loſt my Right Eye, wherefore my Beard and Eye-brows are ſhaved, and how I come to be with you at this preſent time.

'Tis enough, ſays *Zobeide*, you may retire to what place you think fit. The Calender made his Excuſe, and beg'd the Ladies leave to ſtay till he had heard the Relations of his two Comrades, whom I cannot (ſays he) leave with Honour; and till he might alſo hear thoſe of the three other Perſons that were in Company.

Here *Scheherazade* ſaid to the Sultan, Sir, The Day-light which I ſee prevents me from going on with the Story of the Second Calender: But if your Majeſty will hear it to morrow, you will find as much Satisfaction in that as in this Story of the Firſt. To which the Sultan gave Conſent, and ſo he got up in order to go to Council.

The Fortieth Night.

Dinarzade not doubting to find as much delight in the Story of the Second Calender, as ſhe had in the firſt, failed not to call upon the Sultaneſs before Day. If you be not aſleep, Siſter, ſaid ſhe, I would pray you to begin the Story that you promis'd: Upon which *Scheherazade* addreſſed her Diſcourſe to the Sultan, and ſpoke as follows.

Sir, The Story of the Firſt Calender ſeemed very ſtrange to the whole Company, but eſpecially to the Caliſ, who notwithſtanding the Slaves ſtood by with their Scimiters in their Hands, could not forbear whiſpering to the Viſier. Many Stories have I heard, but never

any

any thing that came near the Story of the Calender. Whilſt he was ſaying this, the Second Calender begun, addreſſing his Speech to *Zobeide*.

The Story of the Second Calender, a King's Son.

MADAM, ſaid he, to obey your Command, and to ſhow you by what ſtrange Accident I became Blind of the Right-Eye, I muſt of Neceſſity give you the whole Account of my Life.

I was ſcarce paſt my Infancy when the King my Father (for you muſt know, Madam, I am a Prince by Birth) perceiv'd that I was endowed with a great deal of Senſe, and ſpared nothing that was proper for improving it, he imploy'd all the Men in his Dominions that excelled in Sciences and Arts, to be conſtantly about me.

No ſooner had I learnt to Read and Write, but I learn'd the Alcoran from the Beginning to the End by Heart. That admirable Book which contains the Foundation, the Precepts, and the Rules of our Religion: And that I might be thoroughly inſtructed in it, I read the Works of the moſt approved Authors, by whoſe Commentaries it had been explain'd. I added to this Study, that of all the Traditions collected from the Mouth of our Prophet, by the great Men that were co-temporary with him. I was not ſatisfied with the Knowledge alone of all that had any relation to our Religion, but made alſo a particular ſearch in our Hiſtories. I made my ſelf perfect in polite Learning, in the

the Works of Poets and Verſification. I applied my ſelf to Geography, to Chronology, and to ſpeak our *Arabian* Language in its Purity, nor forgetting, in the mean time, all ſuch Exerciſes as were proper for a Prince to underſtand. But one thing which I was mightily in love with, and ſucceeded into Admiration, was, To form the Characters of our *Arabian* Language, wherein I ſurpaſſed all the Writing-Maſters of our Kingdom, that had acquired the greateſt Reputation.

Fame did me more Honour than I deſerved, for ſhe not only ſpread the Renown of my Parts through all the Dominions of the King my Father, but carried it as far as the *Indian* Court, whoſe Potent Monarch, deſirous to ſee me, ſent an Ambaſſador with rich Preſents, to demand me of my Father, who was extream glad of this Embaſſy for ſeveral Reaſons; He was perſwaded that nothing could be more commendable in a Prince of my Age than to Travel and ſee Foreign Courts; and beſides, he was very glad to gain the Friendſhip of the *Indian* Sultan. I departed with the Ambaſſador, but with no great Retinue, becauſe of the length, and difficulty of the Journey.

When we had travell'd about a Month, we diſcover'd at a diſtance a great Cloud of Duſt, and under that we ſaw very ſoon 50 Horſemen well armed, who were Robbers, coming toward us at a full Gallop. *Scheherazade* perceiving Day, told the Sultan of it, who got up, but deſiring to know what paſt between the 50 Men on Horſeback, and the *Indian* Ambaſſador, this Prince was ſomewhat impatient till next Night came.

The Forty First Night.

IT was almoſt Day when *Dinarzade* awaked next Morning, and call'd to her Siſter, If you be not aſleep, Dear Siſter, I pray you continue the Story of the Second Calender. *Scheherazade* began in this manner.

Madam (ſays the Calender) always ſpeaking to *Zobeide*, As we had 10 Horſes laden with Baggage, and other Preſents that I was to carry to the *Indian* Sultan, from the King my Father, and that my Retinue was but ſmall, you may eaſily judge that theſe Robbers came boldly up to us; and not being in a Poſture to make any Oppoſition, we told them that we were Ambaſſadors belonging to the Sultan of the *Indies*, and hoped they would attempt nothing contrary to the Reſpect that was due to them, thinking by this means to ſave our Equipage and our Lives: But the Robbers moſt inſolently replied, For what Reaſon would you have us to ſhow any Reſpect to the Sultan your Maſter; we are none of his Subjects, nor are we upon his Territories? And having ſpoke thus, they ſurrounded and fell upon us: I defended my ſelf as long as I could, but finding my ſelf Wounded, and ſeeing the Ambaſſador with his Servants and mine lying on the Ground, I made uſe of what ſtrength was yet remaining in my Horſe, who was alſo very much Wounded, and ſeparated my ſelf from the Crowd, and rode away as faſt as he could carry me; but he happening all of a ſudden to fall under me; by wearineſs and the loſs of Blood, he fell down dead. I got rid of him in a Trice; and finding that I was not purſued,

purſued, it made me judge the Robbers were not willing to quit the Booty they had got.

Scheherazade perceiving Day coming on, was obliged to ſtop here. Oh Siſter, ſaid *Dinarzade*, To morrow I ſhall be more diligent, in hopes you will make Reparation to the Sultan for the loſs that his Curioſity has ſuſtain'd through my Neglect. *Schahriar* aroſe without ſaying one word, and went to his uſual Conſultations.

The Forty Second Night.

Dinarzade fail'd not to call the Sultaneſs a good while before Day: My Dear Siſter, ſays ſhe, if you be not aſleep, I pray you reſume the Story of the Calender; I conſent to it, ſaid *Scheherazade*; and ſo continued in theſe words.

Here you ſee me, ſaid the Calender, all alone wounded, deſtitute of all Help, and in a ſtrange Country; I durſt not betake my ſelf to the high Road, fearing I might fall again into the Hands of theſe Robbers. When I had bound up my Wound, which was not dangerous, I march'd on the reſt of the Day, and arrived at the Foot of a Mountain, where I perceived a paſſage into a Cave; I went in and ſtay'd there that Night with little Satisfaction, after I had eaten ſome Fruits that I gather'd by the way.

I continued my Journey for ſeveral Days following, without finding any place of Abode: But after a Months time I came to a large Town well inhabited, and ſituated ſo much the more advantagiouſly, that it was ſurrounded with ſeveral Rivers, ſo that it enjoyed a perpetual Spring.

The

The pleaſant Objects which then preſented themſelves to my View, afforded me ſome Joy, and ſuſpended for ſome time the mortal Sorrow with which I was overwhelm'd, to find my ſelf in ſuch a Condition. My Face, Hands and Feet were all Tawny and Sun-burnt, and by my long Journey my Shoes and Stockings were quite worn out, ſo that I was forced to walk bare footed; and beſides, my Clothes were all in Rags. I entred into the Town to inform my ſelf where I was, and addreſs'd my ſelf to a Taylor that was at work in his Shop; who perceiving by my Air, that I was a Perſon of more Note than my outward Appearance beſpoke me to be, made me to ſit down by him, and ask'd me who I was, from whence I came, and what had brought me thither? I did not conceal any thing of all that had befaln me, nor made I any ſcruple to diſcover my Quality.

The Taylor liſten'd with Attention to my words, but after I had done ſpeaking, inſtead of giving me any Conſolation, he augmented my Sorrow: Take heed, ſays he, how you diſcover to any Perſon what you have now declared to me; for the Prince of this Country is the greateſt Enemy that the King your Father has, and he will certainly do you ſome Miſchief when he comes to hear of your being in this City. I made no doubt of the Taylor's ſincerity, when he nam'd the Prince: But ſince that Enmity which is between my Father and him has no relation to my Adventures, I muſt beg your Pardon, Madam, to paſs it over with ſilence.

I return'd the Taylor thanks for his good Advice, and ſhew'd my ſelf inclinable wholly to follow his Counſel, and aſſur'd him that his

Favours

Favours ſhould never be forgot by me. And as he believed I could not but be Hungry, he caus'd them to bring me ſomewhat to Eat, and offer'd me at the ſame time a Lodging in his Houſe, which I accepted. Some Days, after finding me pretty well recovered of the Fatigue I had endur'd by a long and tedious Journey; and beſides, being ſenſible that moſt Princes of our Religion did apply themſelves to ſome Art or Calling, that might ſtand them in ſtead upon Occaſion, he asked me, if I had learnt any thing whereby I might get a Livelihood, and not be burdenſome to any Man? I told him that I underſtood the Laws both Divine and Humane; that I was a Grammarian and Poet, and above all, that I underſtood Writing perfectly well. By all this, ſays he, you will not be able, in this Country, to purchaſe your ſelf one morſel of Bread; nothing is of leſs uſe here than thoſe Sciences: But if you will be advis'd by me, ſays he, Dreſs your ſelf in a Labourers Habit: And ſince you appear to be ſtrong, and of a good Conſtitution, you ſhall go into the next Forreſt and cut down Fire Wood, which you may bring to the Market to be ſold; and I can aſſure you it will turn to ſo good an Account, that you may live by it, without dependance upon any Man: And by this means you will be in a Condition to wait for the favourable Minute, when Heaven ſhall think fit to diſpel thoſe Clouds of Misfortune that thwart your Happineſs, and oblige you to conceal your Birth; I will take care to ſupply you with a Rope and a Hatchet.

The fear of being known, and the neceſſity I was under of getting a Livelihood, made me agree

agree to this Propoſal, notwithſtanding all the Meanneſs and Hardſhips that attended it. The Day following the Taylor brought me a Rope, a Hatchet and a ſhort Coat, and recommended me to ſome poor People that gain'd their Bread after the ſame manner, that they might take me into their Company. They conducted me to the Wood, and the firſt Day I brought in as much upon my Head as brought me half a Piece of Gold, which is the Money of that Country; for though the Wood was not far diſtant from the Town, yet it was very ſcarce there, by reaſon that few or none would be at the Trouble to go and cut it. I gained a good Sum of Money in a ſhort time, and I repaid my Taylor what he advanc'd for me.

I continued this way of Living for a whole Year and one Day, that by chance I was gone farther into the Wood than uſual, I happen'd to light on a very pleaſant Place, where I began to cut down Wood; and in pulling up the Root of a Tree, I eſpyed an Iron Ring faſten'd to a Trap Door of the ſame Mettal; I took away the Earth that cover'd it; and having lift it up, ſaw Stairs, which I went down with my Ax in my Hand.

When I was come to the Bottom of the Stairs, I found my ſelf in a large Palace, which put me in a mighty Conſternation, becauſe of the great Light which appeared as clear in it, as if it had been above Ground in the open Air. I went forward along a Gallery ſupported by Pillars of Jaſpis, the Baſis and Chapter being maſſy Gold: But ſeeing a Lady of a noble and free Air, and extrordinary Beautiful, coming towards me; this turn'd my Eyes from beholding any other Object but her alone.

Here

Here *Scheherazade* ſtopt, becauſe Day appeared: But *Dinarzade* ſaid, Dear Siſter, I confeſs I am extreamly well pleas'd with what you have told us to Day, and I do imagine that the following Part muſt be no leſs ſurprizing. You are not miſtaken, ſaid the Sultaneſs, for the remainder of this Story of the Second Calender is better worth, My Lord, the Sultan's Attention, than all that he has hitherto heard. I doubt that, ſays *Schahriar*, (as he was getting up) but we ſhall know that to morrow.

The Forty Third Night.

THE Sultaneſs being awak'd, as uſual, gave the Sultan an Account, that the Second Calender continued the Story thus: Being deſirous (ſays he) to ſpare the Lady the Trouble to come to me, I made haſte to meet her; and as I was ſaluting her with a low Bow, ſhe ask'd me, What are you, a Man or a *Genie?* A Man, Madam, ſaid I: I have no Correſpondence with *Genies*. By what Adventure, ſaid ſhe, (fetching a deep Sigh) are you come hither? I have lived here this 25 Years, and never ſaw any Man but your ſelf, during all that time.

Her great Beauty, which had already ſmitten me, and the Sweetneſs and Civility wherewith ſhe received me, made me bold to ſay to her, Madam, before I have the Honour to ſatisfie your Curioſity, give me leave to tell you, that I am infinitely ſatisfied with this unexpected Rencounter, which offers me an occaſion of Conſolation in the midſt of my Affliction; and perhaps it may give me an Opportunity to make you alſo more happy than you are. I gave her a true

Account

Account by what ſtrange Accident ſhe ſaw in me, the Son of a King, in ſuch a Condition as I then appear'd in her Preſence, and how Fortune would have it, that I ſhould diſcover the Entrance into that magnificent Priſon, where I had found her, but in an uneaſie Condition, according to Appearance.

Alas! Prince, ſaid ſhe (ſighing once more) you have juſt Cauſe to believe this rich and pompous Priſon, cannot be otherwiſe than a moſt wearifome Abode: The moſt charming Places in the World, being no wiſe delightful when we are detained there contrary to our Will. It's not poſſible but you muſt have heard of the Great *Epitimarus*, King of the Iſle of *Ebene*, ſo called from that precious Wood it produces in abundance; I am the Princeſs his Daughter.

The King my Father, had choſen for me a Husband, a Prince that was my Couſin, but on my Wedding-night, in the midſt of the Rejoycing, there was in the Court, and the Capitol City of the Kingdom of the Iſle of *Ebene*, before I was given to my Spouſe, a *Genie*, who took me away; I fainted at the ſame Moment, and loſt all my Senſes, but when I came to my ſelf again, I found my ſelf in this Place. I was a long time unconſoleable, but Time and Neceſſity hath accuſtomed me to ſee and recieve the *Genie*. 'Tis 25 Years, as I told you before, that I have continued in this Place, where, I muſt confeſs, I have every thing that I can Wiſh for, neceſſary to Life, and alſo every thing that can ſatisfie a Princeſs that loves nothing but fine Dreſſes and Faſhions.

Every ten Days, ſaid the Princeſs, the *Genie* comes hither to lie with me one Night, which he never exceeds; and the Excuſe he makes for it is, that he is married to another Wife, who

who would grow jealous if ſhe came to know how unfaithful he was to her: Mean while if I have occaſion for him by Day or Night, as ſoon as I touch a Taliſman, which is at the Entrance into my Chamber, the *Genie* appears. It is now the fourth Day ſince he was here, and I do not expect him before the end of ſix more; ſo, if you pleaſe, you my ſtay five Days and keep me Company, and I will endeavour to entertain you according to your Quality and Merit. I thought my ſelf too fortunate to have obtained ſo great a Favour, without asking it, to refuſe ſo obliging a Proffer. The Princeſs made me go into a Bagnio, which was the moſt handſome, the moſt commodious, and the moſt ſumptuous, that could be imagin'd; and when I came forth, inſtead of my own Cloaths, I found another very coſtly Sute, which I did not eſteem ſo much for its Richneſs, as that it made me look worthy to be in her Company. We ſat down on a Sofa cover'd with rich Tapeſtry, with Cuſhions to lean upon of the rareſt *Indian* Brocard; and ſome time after ſhe cover'd a Table with ſeveral Diſhes of delicate Meats. We eat together, and paſt the remaining part of the Day with very much Satisfaction; and at Night ſhe recieved me into her Bed.

The next Day as ſhe contrived all manner of ways to pleaſe me, ſhe brought in at Dinner a Bottle of old Wine, the moſt excellent that ever was taſted; and out of complaiſance ſhe drank ſome part of it with me. When my Head grew hot with the agreeable Liquor, Fair Princeſs, ſaid I, You have been too long thus buried alive, come follow me, and enjoy the real Day, from which you have been deprived ſo many Years, and abandon this falſe Light that you

you have here. Prince, replied she, with a Smile, Leave this Discourse, if you out of ten Days will grant me Nine, and resign the last to the *Genie*, the fairest Day that ever was would be nothing in my Esteem. Princess, said I, It's the fear of the *Genie* that makes you speak thus; for my part I value him so little, that I will break his Talisman, with the Conjuration that's wrote about it, in Pieces. Let him come then, I will expect him, and how brave or redoubtable soever he be, I shall make him feel the Weight of my Arm. I swear solemnly, that I will extirpate all the *Genies* in the World, and him first. The Princess, who knew the Consequence, conjur'd me not to touch the Talisman, for that would be a means, said she, to ruin both you and me; I know what belongs to *Genies* better than you. The Fumes of the Wine did not suffer me to hearken to her Reasons; but I gave the Talisman a kick with my Foot, and broke it in several Pieces.

At these words, *Scheherazade* perceiving Day, grew silent, and the Sultan got up, not doubting but the breaking of the Talisman had some remarkable Event, and therefore resolved to hear that Story to the end.

The Forty Fourth Night.

Dinarzade being awake somewhat before Day, says to the Sultaness, Sister, if you be not asleep, I pray you acquaint us with what happen'd in the subterranean Palace, after the Prince had broke the Talisman. I am just going to relate it, said *Scheherazade*: Upon which, reassuming her Narrative, she continued her Discourse thus, in the Person of the second Calender.

The

The Taliſman was no ſooner broke, but the Palace began to ſhake, and was ready to fall, with a hideous noiſe like Thunder, accompanied with flaſhes of Lightning and a great Darkneſs. This terrible Noiſe in a Moment diſpell'd the Fumes of my Wine, and made me ſenſible, but too late, of the Folly I had committed. Princeſs, cry'd I, what means all this? She anſwer'd me all in a Fright, and without any Concern for her own Misfortunes, Alas you'r undone if you do not eſcape preſently.

I followed her Advice, and my Fears were ſo great, that I forgot my Hatchet and Cords. I was ſcarcely got to the Stairs by which I came down, till the Inchanted Palace open'd at once, and made Paſſage for the *Genie*. He ask'd the Princeſs in great Anger, what has happen'd to you, and why did you call me? A qualm at my Stomach, ſaid the Princeſs, made me fetch this Bottle which you ſee there, out of which I drank Twice or Thrice, and by Miſchance made a falſe Step, and fell upon the Taliſman, which is broke, and that is all the matter.

At this Anſwer, the furious *Genie* told her, You are a falſe Woman and a Liar, How came that Ax, and thoſe Ropes there? I never ſaw them till this Moment, ſaid the Princeſs. Your coming in ſuch an impetuous manner, has, it may be, forc'd them up in ſome Place as you came along, and ſo brought them hither, without your knowing it.

The *Genie* made no other Anſwer but what was accompanied with Reproaches and Blows, of which I heard the Noiſe. I could not endure to hear the pitiful Cries and Shouts of the Princeſs ſo cruelly abus'd, I had already laid off the Sute ſhe made me put on, and took my own,

own, which I had laid on the Stairs the Day before, when I came out of the Bagnio: I made haſte up Stairs, being ſo much the more full of Sorrow and Compaſſion, that I had been the Cauſe of ſo great a Misfortune, and that by ſacrificing the faireſt Princeſs upon Earth to the barbarity of a mercileſs *Genie*, I was become the moſt criminal and ungrateful of all Mankind. 'Tis true, ſaid I, ſhe has been a Priſoner this 25 Years, but ſetting Liberty aſide ſhe wanted nothing that could make her Happy. My madneſs has put an end to her Happineſs, and brought her under the Cruelty of an unmerciful Devil; I let down the Trap Door, cover'd it again with Earth, and returned to the City with a burden of Wood, which I bound up without knowing what I did; ſo great was my Trouble and Sorrow.

My Landlord, the Taylor, was very much rejoiced to ſee me; Your Abſence, ſaid he, has diſquieted me very much, by reaſon you had intruſted me with the Secret of your Birth, and I knew not what to think, I was afraid ſome Body had known you, God be thanked for your Return. I thank'd him for his Zeal and Affection, but never a word durſt I ſay of what had paſt, nor the Reaſon why I came back without my Hatchet and Cords.

I retired to my Chamber, where I reproached my ſelf a thouſand times for my exceſſive Imprudence; nothing (ſaid I) could have parellel'd the Princeſſes good Fortune and mine, had I forborn to to break the Taliſman.

While I was thus giving my ſelf over to melancholy Thoughts, the Taylor came in and told me, An old Man, ſaid he, whom I do not know, brings me here your Hatchet and Cords,

Cords, which he found in his way, as he tells me, and underſtood by your Comerades that go along with you to the Woods that you lodge here; come out and ſpeak with him, for he will deliver them to none but your ſelf.

At this Diſcourſe I chang'd Colour and fell a Trembling: While the Taylor was asking me the Reaſon, my Chamber Floor open'd at once, and the old Man having no Patience to ſtay, appeared to us with my Hatchet and Cords. This was the Genie the Raviſher of the Fair Princeſs of the Iſle of *Ebene*, who had thus diſguis'd himſelf, after he had treated her with the utmoſt Barbarity. I am a Genie, ſaid he, Son of the Daughter of *Eblis*, Prince of the Genies; Is not this your Hatchet, ſaid he, ſpeaking to me, and are not theſe your Cords?

Here *Scheherazade* ſaw Day and left off. The Sultan found the Story of the ſecond Calender too curious not to deſire that he might hear it out, and therefore got up with an Intention to hear the reſt next Morning.

The Forty fifth Night.

THE Day following *Dinarzade* call'd upon the Sultaneſs, My dear Siſter, pray tell us how the Genie treated the Prince. I will ſatisfie your Curioſity, replied *Scheherazade*, and then re-aſſumed her Story of the ſecond Calender thus.

The Calender continuing his Diſcourſe to *Zobeide*, Madam, ſays he, After the Genie had put that Queſtion to me, he gave me no time to Anſwer, nor was it in my Power; ſo much had his terrible Aſpect put me beſide my ſelf. He

graſp'd me by the Middle, dragg'd me out of the Chamber, and mounting into the Air, carried me up as high as the Skies with ſuch Swiftneſs, that I perceiv'd I was got ſo high without being able to take Notice of the way he carried me in ſo few Moments. He deſcended again in like manner to the Earth, which on a ſudden he cauſed to open with a Knock of his Foot, and ſo ſunk down at once, where I found my ſelf in the inchanted Palace, before the fair Princeſs of the Iſle of *Ebene*. But alas what a Spectacle was there! I ſaw that which pierced me to the Heart; this poor Princeſs was quite naked, all in Blood, and laid upon the Ground more like one dead than alive, with her Cheeks all bath'd in Tears.

Perfidious Wretch, ſaid the Genie to her, pointing at me, Is not this your Gallant? She caſt her languiſhing Eyes upon me, and anſwer'd mournfully, I do not know him, I never ſaw him till this Moment. What, ſaid the Genie, He is the Cauſe of thy being in the Condition thou art juſtly in; and yet dar'ſt thou ſay thou doſt not know him? If I do not know him, ſaid the Princeſs, would you have me to make a Lie on purpoſe to ruin him? Oh then, ſaid the Genie, pulling out a Scimiter, and preſenting it to the Princeſs, If you never ſaw him before, take the Scimiter and cut off his Head. Alas, replied the Princeſs, How is it poſſible that I ſhould execute what you would force me to do? My Strength is ſo far ſpent that I cannot lift up my Arm; and if I could, how ſhould I have the Heart to take away any Innocent Man's Life, and one I do not know? This refuſal, ſaid the Genie to the Princeſs, ſufficiently informs me of thy Crime. Upon which, turning

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to me, And thou (said he) dost thou not know her?

I should have been the most ungrateful Wretch, and the most perfidious of all Mankind, if I had not shown my self as faithful to the Princess as she was to me, who had been the Cause of her Misfortunes. Therefore I answer'd the Genie, How should I know her that never saw her till now? If that be so, said he, Take the Scimeter and cut off her Head: On this Condition I will set thee at Liberty, for then I shall be convinc'd that thou didst never see her till this very Moment, as thou say'st thy self. With all my Heart, replied I, and took the Scimeter in my Hand.

But, Sir, said *Scheherazade*, 'tis Day, and I ought not to abuse your Majesty's Patience. These are wonderful Events, said the Sultan to himself, We shall know to Morrow if the Prince was so Cruel as to give Obedience to the Genie's Command.

The Fourty sixth Night.

WHEN the Night was near at an end, *Dinarzade* calls upon the Sultaness, Sister, if you are not asleep I would pray you to continue the Story which you could not finish Yesterday. I will, said *Scheherazade*, and without loss of time you shall understand that the second Calender went on thus.

Do not think, Madam, that I drew near to the fair Princess of the Isle of *Ebene*, to be the Executioner of the Genie's Barbarity, I did it only to demonstrate by my Behaviour, as much as possible, that as she had shown her Resolu-

tion to ſacrifice her Life for my ſake, that I would not refuſe to ſacrifice mine for hers. The Princeſs notwithſtanding her Pain and Suffering underſtood my meaning; which ſhe ſignified by an obliging Look, and made me underſtand her willingneſs to die for me; and that ſhe was ſatisfied to ſee how willing I was alſo to die for her. Upon this I ſtept back and threw the Scimiter on the Ground, I ſhall for ever (ſays I to the Genie) be hateful to all Mankind, ſhould I be ſo baſe as to murder, I do not only ſay a Perſon whom I do not know, but alſo a Lady like this; who is ready to give up the Ghoſt, do with me what you pleaſe, ſince I am in your Power, I cannot Obey your Barbarous Commands.

I ſee, ſaid the Genie, that you both outbrave me and inſult my Jealouſie, but both of you ſhall know by the Treatment I give you, what I am capable to do. At theſe words the Monſter took up the Scimiter and cut off one of her Hands, which only left her ſo much Life as to give me a Token with the other, that ſhe bid me for ever Adieu. For the Blood ſhe had loſt before, and that which guſh'd out then, did not permit her to Live above one or two Moments after this barbarous Cruelty; the ſight of which threw me into a Fit. When I was come to my ſelf again I expoſtulated with the Genie, why he made me Languiſh in expectation of Death: Strike, cried I, for I am ready to receive the mortal Blow, and expect it as the greateſt Favour you can ſhow me. But inſtead of agreeing to that, Look ye, ſays he, how Genies treat their Wives whom they ſuſpect of unfaithfulneſs; ſhe has received thee here: And were I certain that ſhe had put

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any further Affront upon me, I would make thee to die this Minute; but I will content my ſelf to transform thee into a Dog, Aſs, Lion or Bird, take thy choice of any of theſe, I will leave it to thy ſelf.

Theſe words gave me ſome hopes to molifie him. O Genie, ſaid I, moderate your Paſſion, and ſince you will not take away my Life, give it me generouſly, I ſhall always remember your Clemency, if you Pardon me, as one of the beſt Men in the World, pardon'd one of his Neighbours that bore him a mortal Hatred. The Genie ask'd me what had paſt between thoſe two Neighbours, and ſaid he would have Patience till he heard the Story, which I told him thus; and I believe, Madam, you will not take it ill if I alſo relate it to you.

The Story of the Envious Man, and of him that he Envied.

IN a conſiderable Town two Perſons dwelt next Door to one another; one of them conceived ſuch a violent Hatred againſt the other, that he who was Hated reſolved to remove his Dwelling further off, being perſwaded that their being Neighbours was the only Cauſe from whence his Animoſity did ariſe: For tho' he had done him ſeveral pieces of Service, he found nevertheleſs that his Hatred was nothing diminiſhed; therefore he ſold his Houſe with what Goods he had left, and retired to the Capital City of that Kingdom, which was not far diſtant. He bought a little ſpot of Ground which lay about half a League from the City; he had a Houſe convenient enough, with a fine

Garden and a pretty ſpacious Court, wherein there was a deep Well which was not in uſe.

The honeſt Man having made this Purchaſe, put on a Darvis or Monks Habit, to lead a retired Life, and cauſed ſeveral Cells to be made in the Houſe, where in a ſhort time he eſtabliſh'd a numerous Society of Derviſes, he came ſoon to be publickly known by his Virtue, through which he acquired the Eſteem of a great many People, as well of the Commonalty as of the Chief of the City. In ſhort, he was extreamly honoured and cheriſhed by every one. People came from afar to recommend themſelves to his Prayers; and all thoſe who came to live with him publiſh'd what Bleſſings they received through his means.

The great Reputation of this Honeſt Man having ſpread through the Town from whence he came, it touch'd the Envious Man ſo much to the quick that he left his Houſe and Affairs with a Reſolution to go and ruin him: With this intent he went to the new Convent of the Derviſes, of which his former Neighbour was the Head; who received him with all imaginable Tokens of Friendſhip. The envious Man told him that he was come on purpoſe to communicate a Buſineſs of importance to him, which he could not do but in Private: And becauſe that no Body ſhall hear us, Let us, ſays he, take a walk in your Court; and ſeeing Night begins to draw on command your Derviſes to retire to their Cells. The Head of the Derviſes did as he required.

When the Envious Man ſaw that he was alone with this good Man, he begun to tell him his Errand, walking ſide by ſide in the Court till he ſaw his Opportunity; and getting the

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good Man near the brink of the Well, he gave him a Thruſt and puſh'd him into it, without any Bodies being Witneſs to ſo Wicked an Action. Having done thus he march'd off immediately, got out at the Gate of the Convent, without being known of any one, and came home to his own Houſe, very well ſatisfied with his Journey, being fully perſwaded that the Object of his Hatred was no more in this World, but found himſelf highly miſtaken.

Scheherazade could go no further becauſe Day began to appear. The Sultan conceived great Indignation againſt the Envious Man, and ſays to himſelf, I heartily wiſh that no Hurt may come to this Honeſt Man. I hope to hear to Morrow that Heaven did not forſake him on this occaſion.

The Fourty ſeventh Night.

IF you be not aſleep, Siſter, ſaid *Dinarzade*, next Morning, I conjure you to tell us if the Honeſt Dervis came ſafe and ſound out of the Well. Yes, replied *Scheherazade*: And the Second Calender purſued his Story thus. The old Well, ſays he, was inhabited by Faries and Genies, which happened luckily for the Relief of the Head of the Convent; for they received and ſupported him, and carried him to the Bottom, ſo that he got no Hurt. He perceived well enough that there was ſomething extraordinary in this Fall, which muſt otherwiſe have coſt him his Life; whereas he neither ſaw nor felt any thing. But he ſoon heard a Voice, which ſaid, Do you know what Honeſt Man this is to whom we have done this

piece of Service? Another Voice anſwer'd, No. To which the firſt replied, Then I will tell you. This Man out of Charity, the greateſt that ever was known, left the Town he lived in, and has eſtabliſh'd himſelf in this Place, in hopes to cure one of his Neighbours of the Envy he had conceived againſt him; he has acquired ſuch a general Eſteem, that the Envious Man not able to endure it, came hither on purpoſe to Ruin him, which he had perform'd had it not been for the Aſſiſtance which we have given this Honeſt Man, whoſe Reputation is ſo great, that the Sultan, who keeps his Reſidence in the Neighbouring City, was to pay him a Viſit to Morrow, to recommend the Princeſs his Daughter to his Prayers.

Another Voice asked, what need had the Princeſs of the Dervis's Prayers? To which the firſt anſwer'd, You do not know it ſeems, that ſhe is poſſeſs'd by Genie *Maimoun*, the Son of *Dimdim*, who is fallen in Love with her. But I know well how this good Head of the Derviſes may cure her; the thing is very eaſie, and I will tell it you. He has a black Cat in his Convent with a white Spot at the end of her Tail, about the bigneſs of a ſmall piece of ſilver Money, let him only pull ſeven Hairs out of this white Spot, burn them and ſmoke the Princeſſes Head with the Fume, ſhe will not only preſently be cured, but be ſo ſafely deliver'd from *Maimoun*, the Son of *Dimdim*, that he will never dare to come near her a ſecond time.

The Head of the Dervis's remembred every word of this Diſcourſe between the Faries and the Genies, who were very ſilent all the Night after. The next Morning by break of Day, that

that he could diſcern one thing from another, the Well being broke down in ſeveral Places, he ſaw a Hole by which he crept out with eaſe.

The other Derviſes who had been ſeeking for him were rejoyced to ſee him; he gave them a brief Account of the Wickedneſs of that Man to whom he had given ſo kind a Reception the Day before, and retired into his Cell. It was not long till the black Cat, of whom the Faries and the Genies had made mention in their Diſcourſes the Night before, came to fawn upon her Maſter, as ſhe was accuſtomed to do; he took her up and pull'd out 7 Hairs off the white Spot that was upon her Tail, and laid them aſide for his uſe when occaſion ſhould ſerve.

The Sun was not high when the Sultan, who would leave no means untried that he thought could reſtore the Princeſs to her perfect Health, Arrived at the Gate of the Convent, He Commanded his Guards to halt, whilſt he with his Principal Officers went in. The Derviſes received him with profound Reſpect.

The Sultan called their Head aſide, and ſays, Good *Sheich*, It may be you know already the Cauſe of my coming hither. Yes, Sir, replies he very gravely, if I do not miſtake it: 'Tis the Diſeaſe of the Princeſs which procures me this Honour that I have not deſerved. That's the very thing, replied the Sultan. You will give me new Life, if your Prayers, as I hope they will, can procure my Daughter's Health. Sir, ſaid the good Man, If your Majeſty will be pleaſed to let her come hither, I am in hopes, that through God's Aſſiſtance and Favour ſhe ſhall return in perfect Health.

The Prince transported with Joy, ſent immediately to fetch his Daughter, who very ſoon appeared with a numerous train of Ladies and Eunuchs, but maſqued, ſo that her Face was not ſeen. The Chief of the Derviſes caus'd a Pall to be held over her Head, and he had no ſooner thrown the ſeven tufts of Hair upon the burning Coals, but the Genie *Maimoun*, the Son of *Dimdim*, gave a great Cry without any thing being ſeen, and left the Princeſs at Liberty; upon which ſhe took off the Vail from her Face, and roſe up to ſee where ſhe was, ſaying, Where am I, and who brought me hither? At which Words the Sultan overcome with exceſs of Joy, embraced his Daughter, and kiſs'd her Eyes; he alſo kiſs'd the Chief of the Derviſes Hands, and ſaid to his Officers, tell me your Opinion, What Reward does he deſerve that has thus cur'd my Daughter? They all cried he deſerves her in Marriage: That is what I had in my Thoughts, ſaid the Sultan; and I make him my Son-in-Law from this Moment. Some time after the Prime Vizier died, and the Sultan conferr'd the Place upon the Dervis. The Sultan himſelf alſo died without Heirs Male; upon which the Religious Orders and the Militia gathered together, and the honeſt Man was declared and acknowledged Sultan by general Conſent.

Day-light appearing, *Scheherazade* was obliged to break off her Story. *Schahriar* look'd upon the Dervis to be worthy of the Crown he had got, but was deſirous to know if the envious Man did not die for Spite, and got up with an Intention to hear it next Night.

The Fourty eighth Night.

Dinarzade, when it was time, addreſs'd her Speech to the Sultaneſs thus: My Dear Siſter, ſaid ſhe, If you be not aſleep, I would pray you to conclude your Story of the hated and envious Man. With all my Heart, anſwers *Scheherazade*. The ſecond Calender continued his Story thus: The honeſt Dervis, ſaid he, being mounted on the Throne of his Father-in-Law, as he was one Day in the midſt of his Courtiers upon a March, he eſpied the envious Man among the Crowd of People that ſtood as he paſt along, and calling one of the Viziers that attended him, whiſper'd in his Ear thus, Go bring me that Man you ſee there, but have a care you do not frighten him. The Vizier obey'd, and when the envious Man was brought into his Preſence, the Sultan ſaid, Friend, I'm extream glad to ſee you; upon which he called to an Officer, Go immediately, ſays he, and cauſe to be paid this Man out of my Treaſury 100 Pieces of Gold; let him have alſo 20 Load of the richeſt Merchandize in my Store houſes, and a ſufficient Guard to conduct him to his Houſe. After he had given this Charge to the Officer, he bid the envious Man farewell, and proceeded on his March.

When I had finiſhed the recital of this Story to the Genie, the Murtherer of the Princeſs of the Iſle of *Ebene*, I made the Application to himſelf thus, O Genie! You ſee here that this bountiful Sultan did not content himſelf to have forgot the Deſign of the Envious Man to take away his Life, but treated him kindly, and ſent him back

back with all the Favours which I just now related. In short, I made use of all my Eloquence, praying him to imitate such a good Example, and to grant me Pardon: But it was impossible for me to move his Compassion.

All that I can do for thee, said he, is, that I will not take thy Life; don't flatter thy self that I will send thee safe and sound back, I must let thee feel what I am able to do by my Enchantments; with that he laid violent Hands on me, and carried me cross the Vault of the Subterranian Palace, which opened to give him Passage, he flew up with me so high, that the Earth seemed to be only a little White Cloud; from thence he came down again like Lightning, and alighted upon the ridge of a Mountain.

There he took up a Handful of Earth, and pronounced, or rather mutter'd some Words which I did not understand, and threw it upon me, Leave the shape of a Man, says he, to me, and take on the that of an Ape. He vanish'd immediately, and left me alone, transformed into an Ape over-whelm'd with Sorrow in a strange Country, not knowing if I was near unto, or far from my Father's Dominions.

I went down from the height of the Mountain and came into a plain Country, which took me a Months time to travel through, and then I came to a Coast of the Sea. It happened to be then a great Calm, and I espied a Vessel about half a League from the Shoar: I would not lose this good opportunity, but broke off a large Branch from a Tree, which I carried with me to the Sea-side, and set my self a stride upon it, with a Stick in each Hand to serve me for Oars.

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I launched out in this Posture, and advanced near the Ship: When I was nigh enough to be known, the Seamen and Passengers that were upon the Deck thought it an extraordinary Spectacle, and all of 'em look'd upon me with great Astonishment. In the mean time I got aboard, and laying hold of a Rope, I jumped up on the Deck, and having lost my Speech, I found my self in very great Perplexity; and indeed the Risque I run then, was nothing less than when I was at the Mercy of the Genie.

The Merchants, being both Superstitious and Scrupulous, believ'd I would occasion some Mischief to their Voyage if they receiv'd me; therefore, says one, I will knock him down with an Hand-spike; says another, I will shoot an Arrow through his Guts; says a third, let us throw him into the Sea. Some of them would not have fail'd to have executed their Design if I had not got to that side where the Captain was, when I threw my self at his Feet, and took him by the Coat in a begging Posture. This Action, together with the Tears which he saw gush from my Eyes, moved his Compassion; so that he took me into his Protection, threatned to be revenged on him that should do me the least Hurt; and he himself made very much of me. And on my Part, though I had no Power to speak, I did, by my Gestures, shew all possible Signs of Gratitude.

The Wind that succeeded the Calm was gentle and favourable, and did not alter for 50 Days, but brought us safe to the Port of a fine Town, well peopled, and of great Trade, where we came to an Anchor: It was so much the more considerable, that it was the Capital City of a powerful State.

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Our Veſſel was ſpeedily ſurrounded with an infinite number of Boats full of People, that either came to congratulate their Friends upon their ſafe Arrival, or to enquire for thoſe they had left behind them in the Country from whence they came, or, out of Curioſity, to ſee a Ship that came from a far Country.

Amongſt the reſt, ſome Officers came on board, deſiring to ſpeak with our Merchants in the Name of the Sultan. The Merchants appearing, one of the Officers told them, The Sultan, our Maſter, hath commanded us to acquaint you that he is glad of your ſafe Arrival, and prays you to take the trouble, every one of you to write ſome Lines upon this Roll of Paper, and that his Deſign by this may be underſtood, you muſt know that we had a Prime Vizier, who, beſides a great Capacity to manage Affairs, underſtood Writing to the higheſt Perfection. This Miniſter is lately Dead, at which the Sultan is very much troubled, and ſince he can never behold his Writing without Admiration, he has made a ſolemn Vow, not to give the Place to any Man but to him that can write as well as he did. Abundance of People have preſented their Writings; but, to this Day, no body in all this Empire has been judged worthy to ſupply the Vizier's Place.

Thoſe Merchants that believed they could write well enough to pretend to this high Dignity, wrote one after another what they thought fit. After they had done, I advanced, and took the Roll out of the Gentleman's Hand: But all the People, eſpecially the Merchants, cried out, He will tear it or throw it into the Sea, till they ſaw how properly I held the Roll, and made a ſign that I would write in my turn.

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then they were of another Opinion, and their Fears turn'd into Admiration: However, ſince they had never ſeen an Ape that could write, nor could be perſuaded that I was more ingenious than other Apes, they offer'd to ſnatch the Roll out of my Hand; but the Captain took my Part once more. Let him alone, ſaid he, ſuffer him to write. If he only ſcribles the Paper, I promiſe you that I will puniſh him upon the Spot. If, on the contrary, he writes well, as I hope he will, becauſe I never ſee an Ape ſo handy and ingenious, and ſo apprehenſive of every thing, I do declare that I will own him as my Son; I had one that had not by far the Wit that he has. Perceiving that no Man did any more oppoſe my Deſign, I took the Pen and wrote before I had done, ſix ſorts of Hands, uſed among the *Arabians*, and each Specimen contained an Extemporary Diſtich or Quatrain in Praiſe of the Sultan. My Writing did not only out-do that of the Merchants, but, I dare ſay, they had not before ſeen any ſuch fair Writing in that Country. When I had done, the Officers took the Roll and carried it to the Sultan.

Thus far was *Sheherazade* come with her Story when Day-light appear'd. Sir, ſaid ſhe, to *Schahriar*, If I had time to continue, I would give your Majeſty an Account of Things far more ſurprizing than what I have yet told. The Sultan, who had reſolved to hear the end of the Story, got up without ſaying one Word.

The Forty Ninth Night.

THE next Morning *Dinarzade*, being awake before Day, called to the Sultaneſs, and ſaid, Siſter, If you be not aſleep, Pray let us hear the reſt of the Adventures, that happened to the Ape. I believe, my Lord the Sultan is no leſs curious to know it than my ſelf. You ſhall both be ſatisfied, anſwer'd *Scheherazade*, and that you may ſoon be eas'd of your longing. The Second Calender continued his Story thus.

The Sultan took little Notice of any of the other Writings, but conſider'd mine, which was ſo much to his liking, that he ſays to the Officers, Take the fineſt Horſe in my Stable, with the richeſt Harneſs, and a Robe of the moſt ſumptuous Brocard to put upon that Perſon who wrote thoſe ſix Hands, and bring him hither to me. At this Command the Officers could not forbear laughing; the Sultan grew angry at their boldneſs, and was ready to puniſh them till they told him, Sir, We humbly beg your Majeſty's Pardon, theſe Hands are not writ by a Man, but by an Ape. What do you ſay, ſays the Sultan? Thoſe admirable Characters, are not they writ by the Hand of a Man? No Sir, replied the Officers, we do aſſure your Majeſty that it was an Ape, who wrote them in our Preſence. The Sultan was too much ſurpriz'd at this Account, not to deſire a ſight of me, and therefore ſays, Do what I commanded you, and bring me ſpeedily that wonderful Ape.

The Officers returned to the Veſſel, and ſhew'd the Captain their Order, who anſwer'd,

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The Sultan's Commands muſt be obeyed. Whereupon they clothed me with that rich Brocado Robe, and carried me a ſhore, where they ſet me on Horſeback, whilſt the Sultan waited for me at his Palace with a great number of Courtiers whom he gather'd together to do me the more Honour.

The Cavalcade being begun, the Harbour, the Streets, the Publick Places, Windows, Terraſes, Palaces and Houſes were all fill'd with an infinite number of People of all ſorts, who were curious to come from all parts of the City to ſee me: For the Rumour was ſpread in a Moment, that the Sultan had choſen an Ape to be his Grand-Viſier; and after having ſerved for a Spectacle to the People, who could not forbear to expreſs their Surprize, by redoubling their Shouts and Cries, I arrived at the Palace of the Sultan.

I found the Prince ſat on his Throne in the midſt of his Grandees; I made my Bow three times very low, and at laſt I kneel'd and kiſs'd the Ground before him, and afterwards ſat down on my Seat in the Poſture of an Ape. The whole Aſſembly admired me, and could not comprehend how it was poſſible that an Ape ſhould underſtand ſo well to give the Sultan his due Reſpect; and he himſelf was more aſtoniſhed than any Man. In ſhort, the Ceremony of the Audience would have been compleat, could I have added a Speech to my Behaviour; but Apes do never ſpeak, and the Advantage I had of having been a Man, did not allow me that Priviledge.

The Sultan diſmiſs'd his Courtiers, and none remained by him but the Chief of his Eunuchs, a little young Slave and my ſelf. He went from

his Chamber of Audience into his own Apartment, where he ordered Dinner to be brought. As he ſate at Table he gave me a Sign to come near and eat with him: To ſhow my Obedience, I kiſſed the Ground, ſtood up, ſat me down at the Table, and eat with Diſcretion and Moderately.

Before the Table was uncovered I eſpied an Inkhorn, which I made a ſign ſhould be brought me; having got it, I wrote upon a large Peach ſome Verſes after my way, which teſtified my Acknowledgment to the Sultan; who having read them after my preſenting him the Peach, it encreaſed his Aſtoniſhment. When the Table was uncover'd, they brought him a particular Liquor, of which he cauſed them to give me a Glaſs: I drank, and wrote ſome new Verſes upon it, which explained the State I was in after a great many Sufferings. The Sultan read them likewiſe, and ſaid, a Man that was capable of doing ſo much, ought to be exalted above the greateſt of Men.

The Sultan cauſed them to bring in a Cheſs-board, and asked me by a Sign if I underſtood that Game, and would play with him. I kiſs'd the Ground, and laying my Hand upon my Head, ſignified that I was ready to receive that Honour. He won the firſt Game, but I won the ſecond and third; and perceiving he was ſomewhat diſpleaſed at it, I made a Quatrain to pacify him, in which I told him, That two potent Armies had been fighting very eagerly all Day, but that they made up a Peace towards the Evening, and paſſed the remaining part of the Night very peaceably together upon the Field of Battle.

So

So many things appearing to the Sultan far beyond whatever any one had either ſeen or known of the Behaviour and Knowledge of Apes, he would not be the only Witneſs of theſe Prodigies himſelf; but having a Daughter, called the Lady of Beauty, to whom the Head of the Eunuchs then preſent was Governour, Go, ſaid the Sultan to him, and bid your Lady come hither: I am willing ſhe ſhould have a ſhare in my Pleaſure.

The Eunuch went, and immediately brought the Princeſs, who had her Face uncover'd; but ſhe was no ſooner got into the Room when ſhe put on her Vail, and ſaid to the Sultan, Sir, Your Majeſty muſt needs have forgot your ſelf. I am very much ſurprized that your Majeſty has ſent for me to appear among Men. How Daughter! Said the Sultan, You do not know what you ſay: Here is no body but the little Slave, the Eunuch your Governor, and my ſelf who has the Liberty to ſee your Face; and yet you lower your Vail, and would make me a Criminal in having ſent for you hither. Sir, ſaid the Princeſs, Your Majeſty ſhall ſoon underſtand that I am not in the wrong. That Ape you ſee before you, tho' he has the ſhape of an Ape, is a young Prince, Son of a great King; he has been Metamorphoz'd into an Ape by Inchantment. A Genie, the Son of the Daughter of *Eblis*, has maliciouſly done him this Wrong, after having cruelly taken away the Life of the Princeſs of the Iſle of *Ebene*, Daughter to King *Epitamarius*.

The Sultan aſtoniſh'd at this Diſcourſe, turned towards me, and ſpoke no more by Signs, but in plain Words asked me, if this was true what his Daughter ſaid? Seeing I could not

ſpeak,

ſpeak, I put my Hand to my Head to ſignifie that what the Princeſs ſpoke was true. Upon this the Sultan ſaid again to his Daughter, How do you know that this Prince has been transform'd by Inchantments into an Ape? Sir, replied the Lady of Beauty, Your Majeſty may remember, that when I was paſt my Infancy, I had an Old Lady waited upon me; ſhe was a moſt expert Magician, and taught me 70 Rules of Magick, by Virtue of which I can tranſport your Capital City into the midſt of the Sea in the twinkling of an Eye, or beyond Mount *Caucaſus*. By this Science I know all enchanted Perſons at firſt Sight: I know who they are, and by whom they have been Inchanted; therefore do not admire if I ſhould forthwith relieve this Prince in deſpite of the Inchantments, from that which hinders him to appear in your ſight what he naturally is. Daughter, ſaid the Sultan, I did not believe you to have underſtood ſo much. Sir, replied the Princeſs, Theſe Things are curious and worth knowing; but I think I ought not to bragg of them. Since it is ſo, ſaid the Sultan, You can diſpel the Prince's Inchantment. Yes Sir, ſays the Princeſs, I can reſtore him to his firſt ſhape again. Do it then, ſaid the Sultan, You cannot do me a greater Pleaſure; for I will have him to be my Viſier, and he ſhall marry you. Sir, ſaid the Princeſs, I am ready to obey you in all that you ſhall be pleas'd to command me.

Scheherazade, as ſhe ſpoke, ſpied Day, and broke off her Story of the Second Calender: And *Schahriar* judging the Sequel would be as diverting as the former Part of it, reſolved to hear it next Day.

The

The Fiftieth Night.

Dinarzade call'd upon the Sultaneſs at the uſual Hour, ſaying, Siſter, If you be not aſleep, Pray do us the Favour, to tell us how the Lady of Beauty reſtor'd the ſecond Calender to his former Shape. You ſhall hear it, ſaid *Scheherazade*: The Calender reſum'd his Diſcourſe thus.

The Princeſs, the Lady of Beauty, went into her Apartment, from whence ſhe brought a Knife, which had ſome Hebrew Words engraven on the Blade: She made us all, *viz.* The Sultan, the Maſter of the Eunuchs, the little Slave and my ſelf to go down into a private Court adjoining to the Palace, and there left us under a Gallery that went round it. She placed her ſelf in the middle of the Court where ſhe made a great Circle, and within it ſhe wrote ſeveral Words in *Arabian* Characters, ſome of them Ancient, and others thoſe which they call the Character of *Cleopatra*.

When ſhe had finiſhed and prepared the Circle as ſhe thought fit, ſhe placed her ſelf in the Center of it, where ſhe began Adjurations, and repeated Verſes out of the *Alcoran*. The Air grew inſenſibly dark, as if it had been Night, and the whole World about to be diſſolved: We found our ſelves ſtruck with a Pannick Fear, and this Fear encreaſed the more when we ſaw the *Genie*, the Son of the Daughter of *Eblis*, appear all of a ſudden in the ſhape of a Lion of a frightful Size.

As ſoon as the Princeſs perceived this Monſter, You Dog, ſaid ſhe, inſtead of creeping before

before me, dare you preſent your ſelf in this Shape thinking to frighten me? And thou, replied the Lion, Art not thou afraid to break the Treaty which was ſo ſolemnly made and confirmed between us by Oath not to wrong or do one another any hurt? Oh thou curſed Creature! replied the Princeſs, I can juſtly reproach thee with doing ſo. The Lyon anſwer'd fiercely, Thou ſhalt quickly have thy Reward for the Trouble thou haſt given me to return: With that he opened his terrible Throat, and run at her to devour her; but ſhe being on her Guard, leapt backward, got time to pull out one of her Hairs, and by pronouncing three or four Words, changed her ſelf into a ſharp Sword, wherewith ſhe cut the Lyon through the middle in two Peices.

The two Parts of the Lyon vaniſh'd, and the Head only was left, which changed it ſelf into a large Scorpion. Immediately the Princeſs turn'd her ſelf into a Serpent, and fought the Scorpion; who finding himſelf worſted, took the ſhape of an Eagle and flew away: But the Serpent at the ſame time took alſo the ſhape of an Eagle that was black and much ſtronger, and purſued him; ſo that we loſt the ſight of both.

Some time after they had diſappeared, the Ground opened before us, and out of it came forth a Cat, black and white, with her Hair ſtanding upright, and keeping a fearful miauling; a black Wolf followed her cloſe, and gave her no time to reſt. The Cat being thus hard beſet, changed her ſelf into a Worm, and being nigh to a Pomgranate that had accidentally fallen from a Tree that grew on the ſide of a Canal, which was deep but not broad, the Worm pierced the Pomgranate in an Inſtant, and hid

it

it ſelf, but the Pomgranate ſwell'd immediately and became as big as a Gourd, which mounting up to the Top of the Gallery, roul'd there for ſome ſpace backward and forward, fell down again into the Court and broke into ſeveral pieces.

The Wolf, who had in the mean while transformed it ſelf into a Cock, fell a picking up the Seeds of the Pomgranate one after another, but finding no more he came towards us with his Wings ſpread, making a great Noiſe, as if he would ask us whether there was any more Seed. There was one lying on the Brink of the Canal, which the Cock perceiving as he went back, run ſpeedily thither; but juſt as he was going to pick it up, the Seed roul'd into the River and turn'd into a little Fiſh.

But I ſee Day, Sir, ſaid *Scheherazade*, which had it not come ſo ſuddenly I am perſwaded that what I ſhou'd have ſaid further would have given your Majeſty a great deal of Satisfaction. Upon this ſhe ſtop'd, and the Sultan aroſe: But his Thoughts being altogether taken up with theſe unheard of Adventures, he was extreamly impatient till he heard the reſt of the Story.

The Fifty Firſt Night.

Dinarzade made no ſcruple to diſturb the Sultaneſs next Morning, and call'd to her, Siſter, If you be not aſleep, pray begin where you left off that wonderful Story laſt Night, I am very deſirous to know what followed after all thoſe Metamorphoſes. *Scheherazade* call'd to mind where ſhe made a ſtop, and addreſſing her

her Diſcourſe to the Sultan, Sir, ſays ſhe, The ſecond Calender continued his Story after this manner.

The Cock jump'd into the River and was turned into a Pike that purſued the ſmall Fiſh; they continued both under Water above two Hours, and we knew not what was become of them, but all of a ſudden we heard terrible Cries which made us to quake, and a little while after we ſaw the Genie and the Princeſs all in Flames: They threw flaſhes of Fire out of their Mouths at one another, till they came to it hand to hand; then the two Fires increaſed, with a thick burning Smoak, which mounted ſo high that we had reaſon to fear it would ſet the Palace on Fire. But we very ſoon had a more preſſing occaſion of Fear, for the Genie having got looſe from the Princeſs came to the Gallery where we ſtood, and blew Flames of Fire upon us: We had all periſhed if the Princeſs, running to our Aſſiſtance, had not forc'd him, by her Efforts, to retire and defend himſelf againſt her; yet notwithſtanding all her diligence ſhe could not hinder the Sultan's Beard from being burnt and his Face ſpoil'd; the chief of the Eunuchs from being ſtifled and burnt on the Spot, nor a ſpark to enter my Right-Eye and made it blind. The Sultan and I expected nothing but Death, when we heard a cry, *Victory, Victory*; and all of a ſudden the Princeſs appear'd in her natural Shape, but the Genie was reduced to an heap of Aſhes.

The Princeſs came near to us, and that ſhe might not loſe time, call'd for a Cup full of Water, which the young Slave that had got no damage, brought her: She took it, and after pronouncing ſome words over it, threw it upon

upon me, ſaying, If thou art become an Ape by Enchantment, change thy ſhape and take that of a Man which thou hadſt before. Theſe words were hardly utter'd till I became a Man, as I was before, one Eye only Excepted.

I was preparing my ſelf to give Thanks to the Princeſs, but ſhe prevented me, by addreſſing her ſelf to her Father thus ; Sir, I have got the Victory over the Genie, as your Majeſty may ſee ; but it's a Victory that coſts me dear ; I have but a few Moments to live, and you will not have the Satisfaction to make the Match you intended, the Fire has pierced me during the terrible Combat, and I find it conſumes me by degrees : This would not have happen'd had I perceiv'd the laſt of the Pomegranate Seed, and ſwallow'd it as I did the other, when I was changed into a Cock : The Genie had fled thither as to his laſt Intrenchment, and upon that the Succeſs of the Combat depended, which would have been ſucceſsful and without danger to me. This ſlip oblig'd me to have recourſe to Fire, and to fight with thoſe mighty Arms as I did between Heaven and Earth, in your Preſence ; for in ſpite of all his redoubtable Art and Experience, I made the Genie to know that I underſtood more than he, I have conquer'd and reduc'd him to Aſhes, but I cannot eſcape Death which is approaching.

Here *Scheherazade* broke off the Story of the Second Calender, and ſaid to the Sultan, Sir, Day-light appears which forbids me to ſay any more ; but if your Majeſty think fit to let me Live till to Morrow, you ſhall hear the end of this Story. *Schahriar* conſented and got

up, according to Cuſtom, to take care of the Affairs of his Empire.

The Fifty ſecond Night.

Dinarzade awaking ſometime before Day, call'd upon the Sultaneſs, and ſaid, My dear Siſter, If you be not aſleep, I would pray you to finiſh the Story of the Second Calender. *Scheherazade* reſum'd her Diſcourſe and went on as follows.

The Calender always directing his Speech to *Zobeide*, told her, Madam, the Sultan ſuffer'd the Princeſs, the Lady of Beauty, to go on with the recital of her Combat. And when ſhe had done, he ſpoke to her in a Tone that ſufficiently teſtified his great Grief. My Daughter, ſaid he, you ſee in what condition your Father is, alas, I wonder that I am yet alive! Your Governor the Eunuch is Dead, and the Prince whom you have deliver'd from his Enchantment has loſt one of his Eyes. He could ſpeak no more, for his Tears, Sighs and Sobs made him ſpeechleſs; his Daughter and I were exceeding ſenſible of his ſorrow, and wept with him.

In the mean time, while we were ſtriving to out-do one another in Grief, the Princeſs cry'd, *I burn, Oh I burn.* She found that the Fire which conſum'd her had at laſt ſeiz'd upon her whole Body, which made her ſtill cry, *I burn*, until Death had made an end of her intollerable Pains. The effect of that Fire was ſo extraordinary, that in a few Minutes ſhe was wholly reduced to Aſhes, as was the Genie.

I can't

I can't tell you Madam how much I was grieved at ſo dreadful a Spectacle: I had rather all my Life have continued an Ape or a Dog, than to have ſeen my Benefactreſs thus miſerably periſh. The Sultan being afflicted beyond all that can be imagin'd, cried out pitiouſly, and beat himſelf on the Head and Stomach until ſuch time as being quite overcome with Grief he fainted away, which made me fear his Life. In the mean time the Eunuchs and Officers came running at the Sultan's Cries, and with very much ado brought him to himſelf again. There was no need for that Prince and me to give them a long Narrative of this Adventure, in order to convince them of our great Grief. The two heaps of Aſhes, into which the Princeſs and the Genie had been reduc'd, was demonſtration enough. The Sultan was hardly able to ſtand upright, but was forced to be ſupported by them till he could get to his Apartment.

When the noiſe of this Tragical Event had ſpread it ſelf through the Palace and the City, all the People bewail'd the Misfortune of the Princeſs, the Lady of Beauty, and were ſenſible of the Sultan's Affliction. Every one was in deep Mourning for ſeven Days, and a great many Ceremonies were perform'd: The Aſhes of the Genie were thrown in the Air, but thoſe of the Princeſs were gathered into a precious Urn to be kept, and the Urn was ſet in a ſtately Tomb, which was built for that purpoſe, on the ſame Place where the Aſhes had laid.

The Grief which the Sultan conceived for the loſs of his Daughter threw him into a Fit of Sickneſs, which confin'd him to his Chamber for a whole Month. He had not fully recover'd Strength when he ſent for me, Prince, ſaid he,

Hearken to the Orders which I now give you, it will coſt you your Life if you do not put 'em in Execution. I aſſur'd him of exact Obedience; upon which he went on thus: I have conſtantly lived in perfect Felicity, and was never croſſed by any Accident; but by your Arrival all my Happineſs I poſſeſs'd is vaniſhed, my Daughter is Dead, her Governor is no more, and it is through Miracle that I am yet alive. You are the Cauſe of all thoſe Misfortunes, for which it is impoſſible that I ſhould be Comforted, therefore depart from hence in Peace, but without further delay, for I my ſelf muſt Periſh if you ſtay any longer; I am perſuaded, that your Preſence brings Miſchief along with it: That's all I have to ſay to you. Depart, and take care of ever appearing again in my Dominions; there is no Conſideration whatſoever that ſhall hinder me from making you repent it. I was going to ſpeak, but he ſtopt my Mouth by Words full of Anger; and ſo I was obliged to remove from his Palace, rejected, baniſh'd, thrown off by all the World, and not knowing what would become of me. Before I left the City I went into a Bagnio, where I cauſed my Beard and Eye-brows to be ſhaved, and put on a Calenders Habit. I began my Journey, not ſo much deploring my own Miſeries as the Death of two fair Princeſſes, of which I have been the occaſion. I paſt through many Countries without making my ſelf known; at laſt I reſolved to come to *Bagdad*, in hopes to get my ſelf introduc'd to the Commander of the Faithful to move his Compaſſion, by giving him an Account of my ſtrange Adventures. I come hither this Evening, and the firſt Man I met was this Calender, our Brother, that ſpoke before me. You know

know the remaining Part Madam, and the cauſe of my having the Honour to be here.

When the Second Calender made an end of his Story, *Zobeide*, to whom he had addreſs'd his Speech, told him, 'Tis very well, you may go which way you pleaſe, I give you leave; but, inſtead of departing, he alſo petition'd the Lady to ſhow him the ſame Favour ſhe had vouchſafed the firſt Calender, and went and ſat down by him: But Sir, ſaid *Scheherazade*, as ſhe ſpoke theſe Words, 'Tis Day, and I muſt go no further. I dare however aſſure you, that how agreeable ſoever the Story of the Second Calender may ſeem to you, that of the Third will be no leſs worthy your hearing, if your Majeſty will be pleas'd to have the Patience. The Sultan being deſirous to know whether it would appear as wonderful as the laſt, got out of Bed with a reſolution to prolong *Scheherazade's* Life further, tho' the Delay he had granted was determined ſeveral Days before.

The Fifty third Night.

ABout the latter end of the following Night *Dinarzade* addreſs'd her Speech to the Sultaneſs thus: Dear Siſter, I pray, until Day appear, which will be very ſoon, be pleas'd to relate ſome of the fine Stories you have read: I would willingly ſaid *Schahriar*, hear the Story of the Third Calender; Sir, replied *Scheherazade*, You ſhall be obeyed. The Third Calender perceiving it was his turn to ſpeak, addreſs'd his Speech as the reſt had done to *Zobeide*, and began in this Manner.

The Story of the Third Calender, a King's Son.

Most Honourable Lady,

THat which I am going to tell you, very much differs from what you have heard already. The two Princes that ſpoke before me have each loſt an Eye by the pure Effects of their deſtiny, but mine I loſt through my own fault, and by haſtning to ſeek my own Misfortune, as you ſhall hear by the ſequel of my Story.

My Name is *Agib*, and I am the Son of a King who was called *Caſſib*: After his Death I took Poſſeſſion of his Dominions, and reſided in the ſame City where he lived before. This City is ſituated on the Sea-Coaſt, has one of the fineſt and ſafeſt Harbours in the World, an Arſenal large enough for Rigging out 50 Men of War to Sea, that are always ready on Occaſion, and alſo to fit out 50 Merchant Ships, with as many light Frigats, and Pleaſure-boats for Recreation. My Kingdom is compoſed of ſeveral fine Provinces upon *Terra firma*, beſides a number of ſpacious Iſlands, every one of which lie almoſt in ſight of my Capital City.

The firſt thing I did was to viſit the Provinces: I afterwards caus'd to fit out and Man my whole Fleet, and went to my Iſlands to gain the Hearts of my Subjects by my Preſence, and to confirm them in their Loyalty; and ſome time after I return'd, I went thither again. Theſe Voyages giving me ſome taſte of Navigation, I took ſo much pleaſure in it, that I reſolved to make ſome Diſcoveries

ries beyond my Iſlands; to which end, I cauſed only ten Ships to be fitted out, embark'd on board them and ſet Sail.

Our Voyage was very ſucceſsful for 40 Days together, but on the 41ſt Night the Wind became contrary, and withal ſo boiſterous, that we were like to have been loſt in the Storm. About break of Day the Wind grew calm, and the Clouds were diſpers'd, and the Sun having brought back fair Weather, we came cloſe to an Iſland, where we remain'd two days to take in freſh Proviſions; this being done, we put off again to Sea. After ten days Sail, we were in hopes of ſeeing Land, for the Tempeſts we had gone through had ſo much abated my Curioſity, that I gave Orders to ſteer back to my own Coaſts; but I perceived at the ſame time, that my Pilot knew not where we were. Upon the 10th day, a Sea-man being ſent to look out for Land from the Main-maſt head, he gave notice that on Starboard and Larboard, he cou'd ſee nothing but the Sky and the Sea, which bounded the Horizon; but juſt before us, upon our Stem, he ſaw a great blackneſs.

The Pilot chang'd colour at this Relation, and throwing his Turban on the Deck with one Hand, and beating his Face with t'other, cried, Oh, Sir, we are all loſt, not one of us will Eſcape; and with all my Skill, it is not in my Power to prevent it. Having ſpoke thus, he fell a crying like a Man who foreſaw unavoidable Ruin; his Deſpair put the whole Ship's Crew into a Terror. I ask'd him what reaſon he had thus to deſpair? He told me the Tempeſt, which we had out-liv'd, had brought us ſo far out of our Courſe, that to Morrow about Noon we ſhall come near to that black

Place, which is nothing elſe but the black Mountain, that is a Mine of Adamant, which at this very Minute draws all your Fleet towards it, by virtue of the Iron and Nails that are in your Ships; and when we come to morrow at a certain diſtance, the ſtrength of the Adamant will have ſuch a force, that all the Nails will be drawn out of the ſides and bottoms of the Ships, and faſten'd to the Mountain, ſo that your Veſſel will fall to pieces, and ſink to the bottom. And as the Adamant has a Virtue to draw all Iron to it, whereby its attraction becomes ſtronger, this Mountain on the ſide of the Sea is all cover'd over with Nails drawn out of an infinite number of Veſſels that have Periſh'd by it; and this preſerves and augments its virtue at the ſame time.

This Mountain, continued the Pilot, is very rugged, on the top of it there's a Dome of fine Braſs, ſupported by Pillars of the ſame, and upon the top of that Dome there ſtands a Horſe of the ſame Metal, with a Rider on his back, who has a Plate of Lead fix'd to his Breaſt, upon which ſome Talliſmanical Characters are Engraven: Sir, the Tradition is, That this Statue is the Chief cauſe that ſo many Ships and Men have been loſt and ſunk in this Place, and that it will ever continue to be diſmal to all thoſe that have the Misfortune to come near it, until ſuch time that it ſhall be thrown down.

The Pilot having ended his Diſcourſe, began to weep afreſh, and this made all the reſt of the Ship's Company do the like. I my ſelf had no other thoughts, but that my days was there to have an end: In the mean time, every one began to provide for his one Safety, and

to

to that end took all imaginable precautions, and being uncertain of the Event, they all made one another their Heirs, by virtue of a Will, for the benefit of thoſe that ſhould happen to be ſaved.

The next Morning we perceived the black Mountain very plain, and the Idea we had conceived of it made it appear more frightful than it was. About Noon we were come ſo near, that we found what the Pilot had foretold to be true, for we ſaw all the Nails and Iron about the Ships fly towards the Mountain, where they fix'd, by the violence of the attraction, with a horrible Noiſe; the Ships ſplit aſunder, and ſunk in the Sea, which was ſo deep about that Place that we could not found it. All my People were Drown'd, but God had Mercy on me, and permitted me to ſave my ſelf by means of a Plank, which the Wind drove aſhore juſt at the Foot of the Mountain: I did not receive the leaſt hurt, and my good Fortune brought me to a Landing Place, where there were Steps that went up to the Top of the Mountain.

Scheherazade would have gone on with her Story, but Day appearing ſhe was oblig'd to keep Silence. The Sultan was convinc'd by this beginning, that the Sultaneſs had not deceived him, and therefore we are not to wonder that he did not order her to die that Day.

The Fifty fourth Night.

FOR the ſake of Heav'n, cry'd *Dinarzade* next Morning, if you be not aſleep Siſter, go on with the Story of the third Calender.

My Dear, Sister, said *Scheherazade*, the Prince renewed his Discourse thus.

At the sight of these Steps, said he, for there was not a bit of Ground either on the Right or Left, whereon a Man could set his Foot, I gave thanks to God and recommended my self to his Holy Protection as I began to mount the Steps, which were so narrow, rugged and hard to get up, that had the Wind blown ever so little it would have thrown me down into the Sea. But at last I got up to the Top without any Accident, I came into the Dome, and kneeling on the Ground, gave God thanks for his Mercies to me.

I pass'd the Night under the Dome, and in my Sleep an old grave Man appear'd to me, and said, Hearken *Agib*, assoon as thou art awake dig up the Ground under thy Feet; thou shalt find a Bow of Brass and three Arrows of Lead that are made under certain Constellations, to deliver Mankind from so many Calamities that threaten them. Shoot the three Arrows at the Statue, and the Rider will fall into the Sea, but the Horse will fall down by thy side, which thou must bury in the same Place from whence you took the Bow and Arrows; This being done, the Sea will swell and rise up to the Foot of the Dome that stands upon the Top of the Mountain: When it is come up so high thou shalt see a Boat with one Man and an Oar in each hand: This Man is also of Metal, but different from that thou hast thrown down, step on board to him, without mentioning the Name of God, and let him conduct thee. He will in 10 Days time bring thee into another Sea, where thou shalt find an opportunity to get home to thy Country safe and sound, provided

provided, as I have told thee, thou doſt not mention the Name of God during the whole Voyage.

This was the Contents of the old Man's Diſcourſe. When I awak'd I was very much comforted by this Viſion, and did not fail to obſerve every thing that he had commanded me. I took the Bow and Arrows out of the Ground, ſhot them at the Horſeman; and with the third Arrow I overthrew him and he fell into the Sea, as the Horſe fell by my ſide; which I buried in the Place whence I took the Bow and Arrows; and in the mean time the Sea ſwell'd and roſe up by degrees: When it came as high as the foot of the Dome that ſtood upon the Top of the Mountain, I ſaw afar off a Boat rowing towards me, and return'd God thanks that every thing ſucceeded according to my Dream.

At laſt the Boat came aſhore, and I ſaw the Man was made of Metal. According as I had dreamt I ſtept aboard, and took great heed not to pronounce the Name of God, neither ſpoke I one word at all; I ſat down, and the Man of Metal began to Row off from the Mountain; he rowed without ceaſing till the Ninth Day, that I ſaw ſome Iſlands which put me in hopes that I ſhould ſoon be out of all the Danger that I was afraid of. The exceſs of my Joy made me forget what I was forbidden to do: *God's Name be bleſt*, ſaid I, *The Lord be praiſed.*

I had no ſooner ſaid thoſe words, but the Boat ſunk with the Man of Metal, and leaving me upon the Surface, I ſwam the remaining part of the Day towards that Land which appeared neareſt unto me. A very dark Night ſucceeded, and not knowing whereabout I was, I ſwam at a venture, my Strength began at laſt to fail, and

and I deſpaired of being able to ſave my ſelf; when the Wind began to blow hard, and a Wave as big as a Mountain threw me on a flat, where it left me, and drew back. I made haſte to get aſhore fearing, another Wave might waſh me back again; the firſt thing I did was to unſtrip and wring the Water out of my Clothes, and then laid them down to dry upon the Sand, which was ſtill pretty warm by the Heat of the Day.

Next Morning the Sun dried my Clothes betimes, I put them on and went forward to ſee where about I was; I had not walk'd very far till I found that I was got upon a little deſart Iſland, tho' very pleaſant, where there grew ſeveral ſorts of Trees and wild Fruits; but I perceived it was very far from the Continent, which much diminiſhed the Joy I conceived for having eſcaped the danger of the Seas. Notwithſtanding I recommended my ſelf to God, and pray'd him to diſpoſe of me according to his good Will and Pleaſure; at the ſame time I ſaw a Veſſel coming from the main Land before the Wind directly to the Iſland. I doubted not but they were coming to Anchor there, and being uncertain what ſort of People they might be, whether Friends or Foes, I thought it not ſafe for me to be ſeen; I got up into a very thick Tree, from whence I might ſafely view them. The Veſſel came into a little Creek, where 10 Slaves landed, carrying a Spade and other Inſtruments fit for digging up the Ground; they went towards the middle of the Iſland, where I ſaw them ſtop and dig the Ground a long while, after which I thought I ſaw them lift up a Trap Door. They return'd again to the Veſſel and unladed ſeveral ſorts of

Proviſion

Proviſion and Furniture, which they carried to that Place where they had broke Ground, and ſo went downwards, which made me ſuppoſe it was a Subterranean Being.

I ſaw them once more go to the Ship, and return ſoon after with an old Man, who led a very handſome young Lad by the Hand of about 14 or 15 Years of Age; they all went down at the Trap Door. And being come up again, having let down the Trap Door, and covered it over with Earth, they return'd to the Creek where the Ship lay, but I ſaw not the young Lad in their Company; this made me believe that he ſtaid behind in that Place under Ground, at which I could not but be extreamly aſtoniſh'd.

The old Man and the Slaves went aboard again, and the Veſſel having got under Sail ſteer'd its Courſe towards the main Land. When I perceiv'd they were at ſuch a diſtance that they could not ſee me, I came down from the Tree and went directly to the Place where I had ſeen the Ground broke; I removed the Earth by degrees, till I found a Stone that was two or three foot Square. I lift it up and ſaw it covered the Head of a Stair, which was alſo of Stone, I went down and came into a large Room, where there was laid a foot Carpet, and a Couch covered with Tapiſtry and Cuſhions of rich Stuff, upon which the young Man ſat with a Fan in his Hand. I ſaw all this by the light of two Tapers, together with the Fruits and Flower-Pots he had ſtanding about him. The young Lad was ſtartled at the ſight of me. But to rid him of his fear, I ſpoke to him as I came in, thus; Whoever you be, Sir, do not fear any thing, a King and the Son of a King, as I am,

and I despaired of being able to save my self; when the Wind began to blow hard, and a Wave as big as a Mountain threw me on a flat, where it left me, and drew back. I made haste to get afhore fearing, another Wave might wash me back again; the first thing I did was to unstrip and wring the Water out of my Clothes, and then laid them down to dry upon the Sand, which was still pretty warm by the Heat of the Day.

Next Morning the Sun dried my Clothes betimes, I put them on and went forward to see where about I was; I had not walk'd very far till I found that I was got upon a little desart Island, tho' very pleasant, where there grew several sorts of Trees and wild Fruits; but I perceived it was very far from the Continent, which much diminished the Joy I conceived for having escaped the danger of the Seas. Notwithstanding I recommended my self to God, and pray'd him to dispose of me according to his good Will and Pleasure; at the same time I saw a Vessel coming from the main Land before the Wind directly to the Island. I doubted not but they were coming to Anchor there, and being uncertain what sort of People they might be, whether Friends or Foes, I thought it not safe for me to be seen; I got up into a very thick Tree, from whence I might safely view them. The Vessel came into a little Creek, where 10 Slaves landed, carrying a Spade and other Instruments fit for digging up the Ground; they went towards the middle of the Island, where I saw them stop and dig the Ground a long while, after which I thought I saw them lift up a Trap Door. They return'd again to the Vessel and unladed several sorts of

Provision

Proviſion and Furniture, which they carried to that Place where they had broke Ground, and ſo went downwards, which made me ſuppoſe it was a Subterranean Being.

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I am,

I am, is not capable of doing you any Prejudice. On the contrary it's probable, that your good Deſtiny has brought me hither, to deliver you out of this Tomb, where it ſeems they have buried you alive for Reaſons unknown to me. But that which makes me wonder, and what I cannot conceive (for you muſt know that I have been Witneſs to all that hath paſt ſince your coming into this Iſland) is, that you ſuffer'd your ſelf to be buried in this Place without any Reſiſtance.

Scheherazade broke off here, and the Sultan aroſe very impatient to know why this young Lad was thus abandon'd in a deſert Iſland, as to which he promis'd himſelf ſatisfaction next Night.

The Fifty fifth Night.

Dinarzade perceiving it was time to call upon the Sultaneſs, ſaid, Siſter, If you be not aſleep, Pray re-aſſume the Story of the Third Calender. *Scheherazade* gave her no occaſion to repent her Requeſt, and went on in this manner.

The young Man, continued the Third Calender, recover'd himſelf at theſe words, and pray'd me, with a ſmiling Countenance, to ſit down by him; which when I had done, he ſaid, Prince, I am to acquaint you with a Matter ſo odd in it ſelf that it cannot but ſurprize you.

My Father is a Merchant Jeweller, who has acquired through his ingenuity in his Calling, a great Eſtate, he has a great many Slaves, and alſo Deputies, whom he imploys to go as Super-

Super-Cargoes to Sea with his own Ships, on purpoſe to maintain the Correſpondence he has at ſeveral Courts, which he furniſhes with ſuch precious Stones as they want.

He had been married a long while and without Iſſue, when he underſtood by a Dream that he ſhould have a Son, though his Life would be but ſhort, at which he was very much concern'd when he awak'd. Some days after, my Mother acquainted him that ſhe was with Child, and the time which ſhe ſuppoſed to be that of her Conception, agreed exactly with the day of his Dream. She was brought to Bed of me at the end of Nine Months, which occaſion'd great Joy in our Family.

My Father, who had obſerved the very Moment of my Birth, conſulted Aſtrologers about my Nativity, who told him, Your Son ſhall live very happily till the Age of Fifteen, when he will be in danger of loſing his Life, and hardly be able to eſcape it. But if his good Deſtiny preſerve him beyond that time, he will live to grow very Old. 'Twill be then (ſaid they) when the Statue of Braſs that ſtands upon the Top of the Mountain of *Adamant* ſhall be thrown down into the Sea by Prince *Agib*, Son of King *Caſſib*; and as the Stars Prognoſticate, your Son ſhall be kill'd 50 Days afterwards by that Prince.

As the Event of this part of the Prediction about the Statue agrees exactly with my Father's Dream, it afflicted him ſo much that he was ſtruck to the very Heart with it. In the mean time he took all imaginable care of my Education until this preſent Year, which is the 15th of my Age; and he had notice given him Yeſterday that the Statue of Braſs had been

been thrown into the Sea about 10 Days ago by that ſame Prince I told you of. This News has coſt him ſo many Tears, and has alarm'd him ſo much, that he looks not like himſelf.

Upon theſe Predictions of the Aſtrologers he has ſought by all Means poſſible to falſifie my Horoſcope and to preſerve my Life. 'Tis long ſince he took this precaution to build me this Subterranean Habitation to hide me in, till the Expiration of the 50 Days after the throwing down of the Statue; and therefore ſince it was told him that this had happen'd 10 Days ago, he came haſtily hither to hide me, and promis'd at the end of 40 days to come again and fetch me out. As for my own part, I am in good hopes, and cannot believe that Prince *Agib* will come to ſeek for me in a place under Ground, in the midſt of a deſart Iſland. This my Lord, is what I have to ſay to you.

Whilſt the Jeweller's Son was telling me this Story, I laugh'd in my ſelf at thoſe Aſtrologers who had foretold that I was to take away his Life; for I thought my ſelf ſo far from being likely to verifie what they ſaid, that he had ſcarce done ſpeaking, when I told him with great Joy, Dear Sir, Put your Confidence in the Goodneſs of God, and fear nothing, you may conſider it as a Debt you was to pay; but that you are acquitted of it from this very Hour: I am glad that after my ſhipwrack I came ſo fortunately hither to defend you againſt all thoſe that would attempt your Death: I will not leave you till the 40 days be expired, of which the fooliſh Aſtrologers have made you ſo apprehenſive, and in the mean while I will do you all the Service that lies in my Power; After which I ſhall have the Benefit of getting

ting to the main Land in your Veſſel, with leave of your Father and your ſelf; and when I am return'd into my Kingdom I ſhall remember the Obligations I owe you, and indeavour to demonſtrate my Acknowledgments in a ſuitable manner.

This Diſcourſe of mine encouraged the Jeweller's Son, and made him have Confidence in me. I took care not to tell him I was the very *Agib* whom he dreaded, leaſt I ſhould put him into a Fright, and took as much care not to give him any cauſe to ſuſpect it. We paſt the time in ſeveral Diſcourſes till Night came on, I found the young Lad of a ready Wit, and eat with him of his Proviſions, of which he had enough to have laſted beyond the 40 days, though he had had more Gueſts than my ſelf. After Supper we continued ſometime in Diſcourſe, and at laſt we went to Bed.

The next Day when we got up, I held the Baſin and Water to him, I alſo provided Dinner and ſet it on the Table in due time. After we had done, I invented a Play to divert our ſelves, not only for that Day, but for thoſe that followed. I prepared Supper after the ſame manner as I had prepar'd Dinner; and having Supp'd we went to Bed as formerly. We had time enough to contract Friendſhip, I found he loved me; and for my part I had ſo great a Reſpect for him, that I often ſaid to my ſelf, Thoſe Aſtrologers who predicted to his Father that his Son was to die by my Hand, were Impoſtors; for it was not poſſible that I could commit ſo baſe an Action. In ſhort, Madam, we ſpent 39 Days in the pleaſanteſt manner that could be in a Place like that Underground:

The

The 40th Day appear'd: And in the Morning when the young Man awaked, he ſays to me with a Tranſport of Joy that he could not reſtrain, Prince, this is the 40th Day, and I am not dead, Thanks to God and your good Company. My Father will not fail to be here anon to give you a Teſtimony of his Gratitude for it, and ſhall furniſh you with all that's neceſſary for your return to your Kingdom: But in the mean time, ſaid he, I beg of you to get ready ſome Water very warm to waſh my whole Body in that portable Bagnio, that I may clean my ſelf, and change my Cloaths to receive my Father more chearfully.

I ſet the Water on the Fire, and when it was hot put it into the moveable Bagnio: The Youth went in, and I my ſelf waſh'd and rubb'd him. At laſt he came out, and laid himſelf down in his Bed that I had prepared, and cover'd him with his Bedcloaths. After he had ſlept a while he awak'd, and ſaid, Dear Prince, Pray do me the Favour to fetch me a Melon and ſome Sugar; that I may eat ſome to refreſh me.

Out of ſeveral Melons that remained, I took the beſt and laid it on a Plate; and becauſe I could find no Knife to cut it with, I asked the Young Man if he knew where there was one? There is one, ſaid he, upon this Corniſh over my Head: I accordingly ſaw it there, and made ſo much haſte to reach it, that while I had it in my Hand, my Foot being intangled in the Covering, I fell moſt unhappily upon the Young Man, and the Knife run into his Heart in a Minute.

At this Spectacle I cry'd out moſt hideouſly; I beat my Head, my Face and Breaſt; I tore my Cloaths, I threw my ſelf on the ground with unſpeakable

unſpeakable Sorrow and Grief: Alas! I cried, There was only ſome Hours wanting to have put him out of that Danger, from which he ſought Sanctuary here. And when I my ſelf thought the Danger paſt, then I became his Murtherer, and verified the Prediction. But, O Lord, ſaid I! Lifting up my Face and my Hands to Heaven, I beg thy Pardon, and if I be guilty of his Death, let me not live any longer.

Scheherazade perceiving Day, was obliged to break off this doleful Story. The Sultan of the *Indies* was moved with it, and found himſelf very uneaſie to think what would become of the Calender after this, and reſolved that *Scheherazade* ſhould not die that Day, becauſe ſhe was the only Perſon that could reſolve him.

The Fifty ſixth Night.

Dinarzade awaked the Sultaneſs next Morning as uſual. If you be not aſleep Siſter, ſaid ſhe, pray tell us what paſt after the Death of that young Man.

Madam, continued the third Calender, addreſſing himſelf to *Zobeide*, After this Misfortune I ſhould have embraced Death, without any Reluctancy, had it preſented it ſelf to me. But what we wiſh to our ſelves, whether good or bad, will not always happen: Nevertheleſs, conſidering with my ſelf that my Tears and Sorrows would not bring the young Man to Life again, and the 40 Days being expired, I might be ſurpriz'd by his Father. I quitted that Subterranean Dwelling, laid down the great Stone upon the Entry of it, and cover'd it with Earth.

I had

I had ſcarce done, when caſting my Eyes upon the Sea towards the main Land, I perceived the Veſſel coming to fetch home the young Man. I began then to conſider what I had beſt do; I ſaid to my ſelf, if I am ſeen by the old Man he will certainly lay hold on me, and perhaps cauſe me to be maſſacred by his Slaves. When he has ſeen that his Son is kill'd, all that I can alledge to juſtifie my ſelf will not be able to perſuade him of my Innocence. It is better for me then to withdraw ſince it is in my Power, than to expoſe my ſelf to his Reſentments.

There happened to be near that Subterranean Habitation a large Tree with thick Leaves, which I thought fit for me to hide in. I got up to it, and was no ſooner fix'd in a Place where I could not be ſeen, but I ſaw the Veſſel come to the ſame Place where ſhe lay the firſt time.

The Old Man and his Slaves landed immediately, and advanced towards the Subterranean Dwelling with a Countenance that ſhewed ſome hope; but when they ſaw the Earth had been newly removed, they changed Colour, particularly the old Man. They lift up the Stone and went down; they called the young Man by his Name, but he not anſwering, their Fears increaſed, they went down to ſeek for him; and at length found him lying upon the Bed with the Knife in his Heart, for I had not Power to take it out. At this Sight they cried out lamentably, which increaſed my Sorrow; the old Man fell down in a Swoon. The Slaves, to give him Air, brought him up in their Arms and laid him at the Foot of the Tree where I was; but notwithſtanding all the Pains they took to recover him, the unfortunate Father continued

a long

a long while in that Condition, and made them oftner than once deſpair of his Life; but at laſt he came to himſelf. Then the Slaves brought up his Sons Corps dreſs'd in his beſt Apparel, and when they had made a Grave, put him into it. The old Man ſupported by two Slaves, and his Face all covered with Tears, threw the firſt Earth upon him, after which the Slaves fill'd up the Grave.

This being done, all the Furniture was brought up from under ground, and with the remaining Proviſions, put on board the Veſſel. The old Man overcome with Sorrow, and not being able to ſtand, was laid upon a ſort of Litter and carried to the Ship, which put forth to Sea, and in a ſhort time ſailed quite out of ſight. The Day-light, which began to enter the Sultan's Apartment, obliged *Scheherazade* to ſtop here. *Schahriar* aroſe at his uſual Hour, and for the ſame Reaſon as before he prolong'd the Sultaneſſes Life, and left her with *Dinarzade*.

The Fifty Seventh Night.

THE next Morning before Day *Dinarzade* addreſſed her ſelf to the Sultaneſs in theſe Words, My dear Siſter, if you are not aſleep be pleaſed to continue the Adventures of the Third Calender. You muſt know then Siſter, ſaid *Scheherazade*, That the Prince went on with the Relation of his Story to *Zobeide* and the Company as follows.

After the old Man and his Slaves were gone with the Veſſel, I was left alone upon the Iſland. I lay that Night in the Subterranean Dwelling which they had not ſhut up, and when Day came,

came, I walk'd round the Iſle, and ſtopt in ſuch Places as I thought moſt proper to repoſe in when I had need.

I led this wearisome life for a Month together; after which, I perceived the Sea to be mightily fall'n, the Iſland to be much larger, and the Main Land ſeem'd to be drawing near me. In effect, the Water grew ſo low, that there was but a ſmall Stream between me and the *Terra firma*. I croſs'd it, and the Water did not come above the middle of my Leg. I march'd ſo long upon the Slime and Sands that I was very weary; at laſt I got upon firm Ground, and when at a good diſtance from the Sea, I ſaw a good way before me ſomewhat like a great Fire, which gave me ſome comfort, for I ſaid to my ſelf I ſhall find ſome body or other, it not being poſſible that this Fire ſhould kindle of it ſelf; but when I came nearer hand I found my Error, and ſaw that what I had taken to be Fire was a Caſtle of red Copper, which the Beams of the Sun made it look at a diſtance as if it had been in Flames.

I ſtopt near the Caſtle, and ſat down to admire its admirable Structure, and to reſt a while: I had not taken ſuch a full view of this magnificent Building as it deſerved, when I ſaw ten handſome young Men coming a long, as if they had been taking a Walk, but that which moſt ſurprized me was, that they were all blind of the Right Eye; they accompany'd an Old Man who was very tall, and of a venerable aſpect.

I could not but wonder at the ſight of ſo many half blind Men all together, and every one of the ſame Eye; As I was thinking in my Mind by what Adventure theſe Men could all come together,

together, they came up to me, and ſeem'd to be mighty glad to ſee me; after the firſt Compliments were paſs'd, they enquired what had brought me thither, I told them my Story would be ſomewhat tedious, but if they would take the trouble to ſit down I would ſatisfy their requeſt. They did ſo, and I related to them all that had happen'd unto me ſince I left my Kingdom, which fill'd them with Aſtoniſhment.

After I had ended my Diſcourſe, the young Gentlemen pray'd me to go with them into the Caſtle, I accepted the proffer, and we paſs'd through a great many Halls, Anti-Chambers, Bed-Chambers and Cloſets, very well furniſh'd, and arrived at laſt in a ſpacious Hall, where there were ten ſmall Blue Sofa's ſet round, and ſeparate from one another, upon which they ſet by Day, and ſlept by Night. In the middle of this Round there ſtood an eleventh Sofa, not ſo high as the reſt, but of the ſame colour, upon which the Old Man above-mentioned ſat down, and the Young Gentlemen made uſe of the other ten; and whereas each Sofa could only contain one Man, one of the Young Men ſays to me, Comerade, ſit down upon that Carpet in the middle of the Room, and do not enquire into any thing that concerns us, nor the reaſon why we are all Blind of the Right Eye, be content with what you ſee, and let not your Curioſity go any further.

The Old Man having ſat a little while, roſe up and went out, but he return'd in a Minute or two, brought in Supper to thoſe ten Gentlemen, diſtributed to each Man his proportion by himſelf, and likewiſe brought me mine, which I eat by my ſelf, as the reſt did; and when

when Supper was almoſt done, he preſented to each of us a Cup of Wine.

They thought my Story ſo extraordinary, that they made me repeat it after Supper, and this gave occaſion to Diſcourſes that laſted a good part of the Night. One of the Gentlemen obſerving that it was late, ſaid to the Old Man, you ſee it is time to go to Bed, and you don't bring us that with which we may acquit our ſelves of our Duty: At theſe words the Old Man aroſe, and went into a Cloſet, from whence he brought out upon his Head ten Baſons one after another, all cover'd with Blue Stuff; he ſet one before every Gentleman, together with a Light.

They uncover'd their Baſons, in which there was Aſhes, Coal-duſt, and Lamb-black; they mix'd altogether, and rubb'd and bedaub'd their Faces with it in ſuch a manner, that they look'd very frightful. After having thus black'd themſelves, they fell a weeping and lamenting, beating their Heads and Breaſts, and cry'd continually, This is the Fruit of our Idleneſs and Debauches.

They continued thus almoſt the whole Night, and when they left off, the Old Man brought them Water, with which they waſh'd their Faces and Hands, they changed alſo their Cloaths, which were ſpoil'd, and put on others; ſo that they did not look in the leaſt as if they had been doing ſo ſtrange an Action.

You may judge, Madam, how uneaſie I was the while, I had a mind a thouſand times to break the ſilence which thoſe young Gentlemen had impoſed upon me, and to ask queſtions; nor was it poſſible for me to ſleep that Night.

After

After we got up next Day, we went out to walk, and then I told them, Gentlemen, I declare to you, that I muſt renounce that Law which you preſcrib'd me laſt Night, for I cannot obſerve it: You are Men of Senſe, and all of you have Wit in abundance, you have convinc'd me of it, yet I have ſeen you do ſuch Actions as none but Madmen could be capable of. Whatever misfortune befal me, I cannot forbear asking why you bedaub'd your Faces with black; how it comes that each of you has but one Eye, ſome ſingular thing muſt certainly be the cauſe of it, therefore I conjure you to ſatisfy my Curioſity. To theſe preſſing Inſtances they anſwer'd nothing, but that it was none of my buſineſs to ask ſuch queſtions, and that I ſhould do weſl to hold my Peace.

We paſs'd that Day in Diſcourſes upon indifferent Subjects, and when Night was come, and every Man had Supt, the Old Man brought in the blue Baſons, and the Young Gentlemen bedaub'd their Faces, wept and beat themſelves, crying, This is the Fruit of our Idleneſs and Debauches, as before, and continued the ſame Actions the following Nights. At laſt, not being able to reſiſt my Curioſity, I earneſtly pray'd them to ſatisfy me, or to ſhow me how to return to my own Kingdom; for it was impoſſible for me to keep them Company any longer, and to ſee every Night ſuch an odd Spectacle, without being permitted to know the reaſon.

One of the Gentlemen anſwer'd in behalf of the reſt, Do not wonder at our Conduct in regard to your ſelf; and that hitherto we have not granted your Requeſt, it's out of meer kindneſs, to prevent your Sorrow of being redu-

ced to the ſame condition with us. If you have a mind to try our Unfortunate Deſtiny you need but ſpeak, and we will give you the Satisfaction you deſire: I told them I was reſolv'd on't, let come what will. Once more, ſaid the ſame Gentleman, we adviſe you to reſtrain your Curioſity, it will coſt you the loſs of your Right Eye. No matter, ſaid I, I declare to you, that if ſuch a Misfortune befal me I will not impute it to you but to my ſelf.

He further Repreſented unto me, that when I had loſt an Eye I muſt not hope to ſtay with them if I were ſo minded, becauſe their Number was compleat, and no Addition could be made to it. I told them that it would be a great Satisfaction to me never to part from ſuch honeſt Gentlemen, but if there were neceſſity for it I was ready to ſubmit; but let it coſt me what it would, I begg'd them to grant my Requeſt.

The Ten Gentlemen perceiving that I was ſo poſitive in my Reſolution, took a Sheep and kill'd it, and after they had taken off the Skin preſented me with the Knife, telling me it would be uſeful to me on a certain occaſion, which they ſhould tell me of preſently. We muſt ſow you into this Skin, ſaid they, and then leave you; upon which a Fowl of a Monſtrous ſize, called Roc, will appear in the Air, and taking you to be a Sheep, will come down upon you and carry you up to the very Sky; but let not that frighten you, he will come down with you again, and lay you upon the Top of a Mountain: When you find your ſelf upon the Ground, cut the Skin with the Knife and throw it off. Aſſoon as the Roc ſees you he will fly away for fear and leave you at Liberty: Do not ſtay but

walk

walk on till you come to a prodigious large Caſtle all cover'd with plates of Gold, large Emeralds, and other precious Stones : Go up to the Gate which always ſtands open, and walk in : We have been in that Caſtle as long as we have been here; we will tell you nothing of what we ſaw or what befel us there, you will learn it of your ſelf; all that we can inform you is, that it hath coſt each of us our Right-Eye, and the Pennance which you have been Witneſs to, is what we are oblig'd to do, becauſe we have been there. The Hiſtory of each of us in particular is ſo full of extraordinary Adventures that a large Volume would not contain 'em. But we muſt explain our ſelves no further.

Here *Scheherazade* broke off her Diſcourſe, and ſays to the Sultan of the *Indies*, Sir, My Siſter call'd upon me this Morning ſooner than ordinary, I fear I have wearied your Majeſty's Patience. But now day appears in very good Seaſon, and commands my Silence. *Schahriar*'s Curioſity prevail'd ſtill upon him to diſpenſe with his cruel Oath.

The Fifty eighth Night.

Dinarzade did not call ſo early this Night as ſhe did the laſt, yet ſhe call'd to the Sultaneſs before Day; If you be not aſleep Siſter, pray continue the Story of the Third Calender. *Scheherazade* reſumed it thus, perſonating the Calender in his Diſcourſe to *Zobeide*.

Madam, when the Gentlemen had ended this Diſcourſe I wrapt my ſelf in the Sheep's Skin, held faſt the Knife which was given me; and

after thoſe young Gentlemen had been at the trouble to ſow the Skin about me, they retired into the Hall, and left me on the Place. The Roc they had ſpoke of was not long a coming, he fell down upon me, took me up between his Tallons like a Sheep, and carried me up to the top of a Mountain.

When I found my ſelf upon the Ground, I made uſe of the Knife, cut the Skin, and throwing it off, the Roc at the ſight of me flew away. This Roc is a white Bird of a monſtrous ſize, his ſtrength is ſuch that he can lift up Elephants from the Plains, and carry them to the Tops of Mountains, where he feeds upon them.

Being impatient till I reach'd the Caſtle, I loſt no time, but made ſo much haſte that I got thither in half a days Journey, and I muſt ſay, that I found it ſurpaſt the Deſcription they had given me of it.

The Gate being open, I entred into a Court that was Square, and ſo large, that there was round it 99 Gates of Wood of Sanders and Aloes, with one of Gold, without conuting thoſe of ſeveral magnificent Stair-Caſes, that led up to Apartments above, beſides many more I could not ſee. The Hundred Doors I ſpoke of, open'd into Gardens or Store-houſes full of Riches, or into Places, which contain'd Things wonderful to be ſeen.

I ſaw a Door ſtanding open juſt before me, through which I entred into a large Hall, where I found 40 young Ladies of ſuch perfect Beauty, that Imagination could not go beyond it; they were all moſt ſumptuouſly apparel'd, and aſſoon as they ſaw me, roſe up, and without

out expecting my Complements, ſaid to me, with demonſtrations of Joy, Noble Sir, you are very Welcome. And one ſpoke to me in the Name of the reſt thus, We have been in expectation a long while of ſuch a Gentleman as you, your Mein aſſures us that you are Maſter of all the good Qualities we can wiſh for; and we hope you will not find our Company diſagreeable or unworthy of yours.

They forced me notwithſtanding all the oppoſition I could make, to ſit down on a Seat that was higher than theirs, and tho' I ſignified that I was uneaſie: That's your place, ſaid they, you are at preſent our Lord, Maſter, and Judge, and we are your Slaves, ready to receive your Commands.

Nothing in the World, Madam, did ſo much aſtoniſh me, as the Paſſion and Eagerneſs of thoſe fair Ladies, to do me all poſſible Service. One brought hot Water to waſh my Feet, a ſecond poured ſweet ſcented Water on my Hands; others brought me all ſort of Neceſſaries, and change of Apparel; and others brought in a magnificent Collation; and the reſt came with Glaſſes in their Hands, to fill me delicious Wines, and all in good Order, and in the moſt charming Manner that could be: I eat and drank, after which the Ladies plac'd themſelves about me, and deſir'd an Account of my Travels. I gave them a full Relation of my Adventures, which laſted till Night came on.

Scheherazade making a ſtop here, her Siſter ask'd her the Reaſon; Do you not ſee 'tis day, ſays the Sultaneſs, Wherefore did you not call me ſooner?

The Sultan expecting ſome pleaſant Adventures from the Arrival of the Third Calender at the Palace of the 40 Ladies, would not deprive himſelf of the Pleaſure to hear them, and therefore again put off the Death of the Sultaneſs.

The Fifty ninth Night.

Dinarzade ſlept as long this Night as ſhe did the laſt, and when it was almoſt day ſhe called to the Sultaneſs, Dear Siſter, if you be not aſleep, pray tell us what paſt in the fine Caſtle where you left us Yeſterday. I will, ſaid *Scheherazade*, and addreſſing her Speech to the Sultan, ſaid, Sir, The Calender reſum'd his Narrative after this manner.

When I had made an end of my Story, which I related to the 40 Ladies, ſome of them that ſat neareſt me, ſtaid to keep me Company, whilſt the reſt, ſeeing it was Dark, roſe up to fetch Tapers: They brought a Prodigious Quantity, which made ſuch a marvellous Light as if it had been Day, and they were ſo proportionably diſpoſed, that nothing could be more beautiful.

Other Ladies cover'd a Table with dry Fruits, Sweet-meats, and things proper to make the Liquor reliſh: And a ſide Board was ſet with ſeveral ſorts of Wines, and other Liquors. Some of the Ladies came in with Muſical Inſtruments, and when every thing was prepared they invited me to ſit down to Supper. The Ladies ſat down with me, and we continued a long while at Supper. They that were to play upon the Inſtruments and Sing, roſe up and made

made a moſt charming Concert. The others began a ſort of a Ball, and Danc'd by two and two, one after another, with a wonderful good Grace.

It was paſt Midnight ere thoſe Devertiſements ended: At length one of the Ladies ſays to me, You are doubtleſs wearied by the Journey you have made to day; it is time for you to go to reſt, your Lodging is prepared: But before you depart, make choice of any of us you like beſt to be your Bed fellow. I anſwered, That I knew better things than to offer to make my own Choice, ſince they were all equally Beautiful, Witty, and worthy of my Reſpects and Service, and that I would not be guilty of ſo much Incivility, as to prefer one before another.

The ſame Lady that ſpoke to me before, anſwer'd, We are very well ſatisfied of your Civility, and find you are afraid to create a Jealouſie among us, which occaſions your Modeſty; but let not this hinder you. We aſſure you, that the good Fortune of her whom you chooſe ſhall cauſe no Jealouſie, for we are agreed among our ſelves, that every Day one of us ſhall have the ſame Honour, till it go round, and when 40 Days are paſt, to begin again; therefore make your free Choice, and loſe no time to go and take the Repoſe you ſtand in need of. I was obliged to yield to their Inſtances, and offer'd my Hand to the Lady that ſpoke, ſhe, in return, gave me hers, and we were conducted to a ſumptuous Apartment, where they left us; and then every one retired to their own Apartment. But Day appears, Sir, ſaid *Scheherezade* to the Sultan, and your Majeſty I hope will permit me to leave the Calender Prince with his Lady. *Schahriar* returned no Anſwer; but

ſaid to himſelf, as he got up, I muſt allow that the Story is extraordinary fine, and that I ſhould be very much in the wrong not to hear it out.

The Sixtieth Night.

Dinarzade did not fail, about the latter end of next Night, to addreſs the Sultaneſs thus: If you be not aſleep, Siſter, pray relate to us the following part of that wonderful Story of the Third Calender; very willingly, ſaid *Scheherazade*. That Prince continued it thus: I was ſcarce dreſs'd next Morning, till the other 39 Ladies came into my Chamber all in other Dreſſes than they had the Day before: They bid me Good Morrow, and enquired into my Health; after which they carried me to a Bagnio, where they waſh'd me themſelves, and whether I would or no, ſerv'd me in every thing I ſtood in need of; and when I came out of the Bath, they made me put on another Sute much richer than the former.

We paſt the whole day almoſt conſtantly at Table; and when it was Bed time, they prayed me again to make Choice of one of them to keep me Company. In ſhort, Madam, not to weary you with Repetitions, I muſt tell you, that I continued a whole Year among thoſe 40 Ladies, and receiv'd them into my Bed one after another; and during all the time of this Voluptuous Life, we met not with the leaſt kind of Trouble. When the Year was expired, I was ſtrangely ſurprized that thoſe 40 Ladies, inſtead of appearing with their uſual Cheerfulneſs, to ask how I did, entred one Morning into

iuto my Chamber all in Tears: They embraced me with great Tenderneſs, one after another, ſaying, Adieu, Dear Prince, adieu, for we muſt leave you. Their Tears affected me, I pray'd them to tell me the reaſon of their Grief, and of the Separation they ſpoke of. For God's Sake, Fair Ladies, Let me know, ſaid I, if it be in my Power to comfort you, or if my Aſſiſtance can be any way uſeful to you. Inſtead of returning a direct Anſwer, would to God, ſaid they, we had never ſeen or known you. Several Gentlemen have honour'd us with their Company before you, but never one of them had that Comlineſs, that Sweetneſs, that Pleaſantneſs of Humour and Merit which you have; we know not how to live without you. After they had ſpoke theſe Words, they began to weep bitterly. My dear Ladies, ſaid I, Be ſo kind as not to keep me in Suſpence any more: Tell me the Cauſe of your Sorrow. Alas! ſaid they, what other thing could be capable of grieving us but the neceſſity of parting from you. It may ſo happen that we ſhall never ſee you again, but if you be ſo minded, and have Command enough over your ſelf, it is not impoſſible for us to meet again. Ladies, ſaid I, I do not underſtand your meaning, pray explain your ſelves more clearly.

Oh then! Said one of them, to ſatisfy you, we muſt acquaint you that we are all Princeſſes, Daughters of Kings, we live here together in ſuch manner as you have ſeen; but at the end of every Year, we are oblig'd to be abſent 40 Days upon indiſpenſible Duties, which we are not permitted to reveal; and afterwards we return again to this Caſtle. Yeſterday was the laſt of the year, and we muſt leave you this

Day, which is the Cauſe of our Grief. Before we depart we will leave you the Keys to every thing, eſpecially thoſe belonging to the hundred Doors, where you will find enough to ſatisfie your Curioſity, and to ſweeten your Solitude during our Abſence: But for your own Welfare, and our particular concern in you, we recommend unto you to forbear opening the Golden Door; for if you do we ſhall never ſee you again; and the fear of this augments our Grief. We hope, nevertheleſs, that you will follow the Advice we give you, as you tender your own Quiet and the Happineſs of your Life; therefore take heed that you do not give way to indiſcreet Curioſity, for you will do your ſelf a conſiderable Prejudice. We conjure you therefore not to commit this Fault, but to let us have the Comfort of finding you here again after 40 Days. We would willingly carry the Key of the Golden Door along with us, but that would be an Affront to a Prince, like you, to queſtion your Diſcretion and Modeſty. *Scheherazade* had a mind to go on; but ſhe ſaw Day appear, and ſtopp'd. The Sultan, being curious to know what the Third Calender would do when the 40 Ladies were gone, and had left him alone in the Caſtle, referred the hearing of it till next Day.

The Sixty firſt Night.

THE Officious *Dinarzade* being awake long before Day, called to the Sultaneſs, If you be not aſleep, Siſter, conſider that it is time to tell the remaining part of the Story to our Lord

Lord the Sultan; *Scheherazade* addreſſing her-ſelf to the Sultan ſaid, Sir, Your Majeſty may be pleas'd to know, that the Calender purſued his Story thus:

Madam, ſaid he, this Diſcourſe of the fair Princeſſes made me extream ſorrowful, I omitted not to make them ſenſible how much their Abſence would afflict me, I thank'd them for their good Advice, and aſſur'd them that I would follow it, and willingly do what was much more difficult, in order to be ſo happy as to paſs the reſt of my Days with Ladies of ſuch rare Qualifications. We took Leave of one another with a great deal of tenderneſs, and having embrac'd them all, at laſt they departed, and I was left alone in the Caſtle.

Their agreeable Company, the good Cheer, the Concerts of Muſick, and other Pleaſures, had ſo much diverted me during the whole Year, that I neither had time, nor the leaſt deſire to ſee the wonderful thing contain'd in this inchanted Palace. Nay, I did not ſo much as take notice of a Thouſand rare Objects that were every day in my ſight, for I was ſo much taken with the charming Beauty of thoſe Ladies, and took ſo much Pleaſure in ſeeing them wholly imploy'd to oblige me, that their departure afflicted me very ſenſibly; and tho' their abſence was only to be 40 Days, it ſeem'd to me an Age to live without them.

I promiſed my ſelf not to forget the important Advice they had given me not to open the Golden Door, but as I was permitted to ſatisfy my Curioſity in every thing elſe, I took the firſt of the Keys of the other Doors, which were hung up in good order.

I opened the firſt Door, and came into an Orchard, which I believe the Univerſe could not equal: I could not imagine that any thing could ſurpaſs it, but that which our Religion promiſes us after Death; the ſymmetry, the neatneſs, the admirable order of the Trees, the abundance and diverſity of a Thouſand ſorts of unknown Fruits, their freſhneſs and beauty, raviſh'd my ſight.

I ought not to forget, Madam, to acquaint you, that this delicious Orchar'd was water'd after a very particular manner; there were Channels ſo artificially and proportionably digg'd, that they carried Water in abundance to the Roots of ſuch Trees as wanted it, for making them produce their Leaves and Flowers. Others carried it to thoſe that had their Fruit budded: ſome carried it in leſſer quantities to thoſe whoſe Fruit was growing big, and others carried only ſo much as was juſt requiſite to water thoſe that had their Fruit come to perfection and only wanted to be ripen'd. They exceeded the ordinary Fruits of our Gardens very much in bigneſs; and laſtly, thoſe Channels that water'd the Trees whoſe Fruit was ripe, had no more moiſture than juſt what would preſerve them from withering.

I could never be weary to look at and admire ſo ſweet a Place, and I ſhould never have left it, had I not conceived a greater Idea of the other Things which I had not ſeen. I went out at laſt with my Mind fill'd with thoſe Wonders: I ſhut that Door, and open'd the next.

Inſtead of an Orchard, I found a Flower-Garden, which was no leſs extraordinary in its kind: It contained a ſpacious Plat, not watered ſo profuſely as the former, but with greater Niceneſs,

Niceneſs, furniſhing no more Water than juſt what each Flower required. The Roſes, Jeſſemins, Violets, Dills, Hyacinths, Wind-flowers, Tulips, Crow-foots, Pinks, Lillies, and an infinite number of other Flowers, which don't grow in other places but at certain times, were there flouriſhing all at once, and nothing could be more delicious than the fragrant ſmell of this Garden.

I open'd the third Door, where I found a large Volary paved with Marble of ſeveral fine Colours that were not common. The Cage was made of Sanders and Wood of Aloes, it contained a vaſt number of Nightingales, Gold-finches, Canary-Birds, Larks and other rare Singing-Birds, which I never heard of before, and the Veſſels that held their Seed and Water, was of the moſt precious Jaſpis or Agat.

Beſides, this Volary was ſo exceeding neat, that conſidering its extent, one would think there could be no leſs than a hundred Perſons to keep it ſo clean as it was; but all this while, not one Soul appeared either here or in the Gardens where I had been, and yet I could not perceive a Weed, or any ſuperfluous thing there. The Sun was down, and I retired, being perfectly charm'd with the chirping Notes of the multitude of Birds, who then began to perch upon ſuch places as were convenient for them to repoſe on during the Night; I went to my Chamber, reſolving to open all the reſt of the Doors the days following, except that of Gold.

I fail'd not to open the fourth Door next day, and if what I had ſeen before was capable of ſurprizing me, that which I ſaw then put me into a perfect extaſie. I went into a large Court

Court ſurrounded with Buildings of an admirable Structure, the Deſcription of which I will paſs by to avoid prolixity.

This Building had 40 Doors wide open, and through each of them there was an Entrance into a Treaſury, ſeveral of which were of greater value than the largeſt Kingdoms. The firſt contain'd heaps of Pearls; and what is almoſt incredible, the number of thoſe Stones which were moſt precious, and as large as Pigeons Eggs, exceeded the number of thoſe of the ordinary ſize. In the ſecond Treaſury there were Diamonds, Carbuncles and Rubies. In the third there were Emeralds. In the fourth there were Ingots of Gold. In the fifth Money. In the ſixth Ingots of Silver. In the two following there was alſo Money. The reſt contained Amethyſts, Chryſoliſts, Topazes, Opals, Turkoiſes and Hyacinths, with all other fine Stones known to us, without mentioning Agat, Jaſpers, Cornelian and Coral, of which there was a Store-Houſe fill'd, not only with Branches, but whole Trees.

Being fill'd with Amazement and Admiration, I cry'd out to my ſelf, after having ſeen all theſe Riches, Now, if all the Treaſures of the Kings of the Univerſe were gather'd togethet in one Place, they could not come near this: What good fortune have I, to poſſeſs all this Wealth with ſo many admirable Princeſſes?

I ſhall not ſtay, Madam, to tell you the particulars of all the other rare and precious Things I ſaw the days following, I ſhall only tell you that 39 days afforded me but juſt as much time as was neceſſary to open 99 Doors, and to admire all that preſented it ſelf to my

View,

View, ſo that there was only the hundred Door left, the opening of which I was forbad.

Day began to appear in the Apartments of the Sultan of the *Indies*, which impoſed Silence upon *Scheherazade*: But *Schahriar* was too much taken with this pleaſant Story, not to hear the remainder of it next Day, and accordingly he got up with that Reſolution.

The Sixty ſecond Night.

Dinarzade, who had as ardent Deſire as *Schahriar*, to hear what wonderful things were lock'd up by the Key belonging to the Golden Door, called the Sultaneſs very early, If you be not aſleep, Siſter, pray make an end of that amazing Story of the Third Calender. He went on thus, ſays *Scheherazade*, I was come to the Fortieth Day after the departure of theſe charming Princeſſes, and had I but retain'd ſo much Power over my ſelf as I ought to have had, I ſhould have been this Day the happieſt of all Mankind, whereas now I am the moſt unfortunate. They were to return next Day, and the Pleaſure of ſeeing them again ought to have reſtrain'd my Curioſity: But through my Weakneſs, which I ſhall ever repent, I yielded to the Temptations of the Evil Spirit, who gave me no reſt till I had thrown my ſelf into thoſe Misfortunes that I have ſince undergone.

I opened that fatal Door, which I promiſed not to meddle with, and had not moved my Foot to go in, till a Smell that was pleaſant enough, but contrary to my Conſtitution, made me Faint away: Nevertheleſs I came to my

ſelf

ſelf again, and inſtead of taking notice of this warning to ſhut the Door, and forbear ſatisfying my Curioſity, I went in, after I had ſtood ſome time in the Air to carry off the Scent, which did not incommode me any more. I found a large place very well vaulted, the Pavement was ſtrewed over with Saffron; ſeveral Candleſticks of maſſy Gold, with lighted Tapers that ſmell'd of Aloes and Ambergreeſe, lighted the Place; and this light was augmented by Lamps of Gold and Silver that burnt with Oil made of ſeveral ſorts of ſweet ſcented Materials.

Amongſt a great many Objects that engag'd my Attention, I perceived a black Horſe of the handſomeſt and beſt ſhape that ever was ſeen. I went nearer, the better to obſerve him, and found he had a Saddle aad a Bridle of maſſy Gold, curiouſly wrought. The one ſide of his Trough was fill'd with clean Barley, and Seſſems, and the other with Roſe-water: I took him by the Bridle and led him forth to view him by the Light: I got on his Back, and would have had him to move; but he not ſtirring, I whipt him with a Switch I had taken up in his magnificent Stable; and he had no ſooner felt the ſtroke, when he began to Neigh with a horrible Noiſe, and extending his Wings, which I had not ſeen before, he flew up with me into the Air, quite out of Sight: I thought on nothing then but to ſit faſt, and conſidering the Fear that had ſeized upon me I ſat very well: He afterwards flew down again towards the Earth, and lighting upon the Terras of a Caſtle, without giving me any time to get off, he ſhook me of out the Saddle with ſuch force, that

that he made me fall behind him, and with the end of his Tail ſtruck out my Right-Eye.

Thus I became blind of one Eye, and then I began to remember the Predictions of the 10 young Gentlemen. The Horſe flew again out of ſight. I got up very much troubled at the Misfortune I had brought upon my ſelf, I walk'd upon the Terraſs, covering my Eye with one of my Hands. for it pain'd me exceedingly, and then came down and entred into a Hall, which I knew preſently by the 10 Sofa's in a Circle, and the 11th in the middle, lower than the reſt, to be the ſame Caſtle from whence I was taken away by the Roc.

The 10 half blind Gentlemen were not in the Hall when I came in, but came ſoon after with the old Man; they were not at all ſurprized to ſee me again, nor at the loſs of my Eye; but ſaid, We are very ſorry that we cannot congratulate you upon your return, as we could have deſir'd; but we are not the cauſe of your Misfortune. I ſhould be in the wrong to accuſe you, ſaid I, for I have drawn it upon my ſelf, and I can charge the Fault upon no other Perſon. If it be a Conſolation to the Unfortunate, ſaid they, to have Fellows, this Example may afford us a Subject of rejoycing; all that has happened to you we have alſo undergone; we taſted all ſorts of Pleaſure, during a Year ſucceſſively, and we had continued to enjoy the ſame Happineſs ſtill, had we not open'd the Golden Door, when the Princeſſes were abſent: You have been no wiſer than we, and you had likewiſe the ſame Puniſhment; we would gladly receive you among us, to do ſuch Penance as we do, though we know not how long it may continue. But we have already declared

declared the Reaſons that hinders us, therefore depart from hence, and go to the Court of *Bagdad*, where you ſhall meet with him that can decide your Deſtiny: They told me the way I was to travel, and ſo I left them.

On the Road I cauſed my Beard and Eyebrows to be ſhaven and took on a Calender's Habit, I have had a long Journey, but at laſt I arrived this Evening in this City, where I met theſe my Brother Calenders at the Gate, being Strangers as well as my ſelf. We wondred much at one another, to ſee we were all Three blind of the ſame Eye; but we had not leiſure to diſcourſe long of our common Calamities, we only had ſo much time as to come hither, to implore thoſe Favours which you have been generouſly pleaſed to grant us.

The Third Calender having finiſhed this Relation of his Adventures, *Zobeide* addreſſed her Speech to him and his Fellow Calenders thus; Go where-ever you think fit, you are all Three at Liberty. But one of them anſwered, Madam, We beg you to Pardon our Curioſity, and permit us to hear thoſe Gentlemens Stories, who have not yet ſpoke. Then the Lady turn'd to that ſide, where the Caliſe, the Viſier *Giafar*, and *Meſrour* ſtood, whom ſhe knew not; but ſaid to them, 'Tis now your turn to tell me your Adventures, therefore ſpeak.

The Grand Viſier *Giafar*, who had always been the Spokeſman, anſwer'd *Zobeide*, thus, Madam, In order to obey you, we need only to repeat what we have ſaid already, before we entred your Houſe: We are Merchants of *Mouſſol*, that came to *Bagdad*, to ſell our Merchandize that lies in the *Khan*, where we lodge. We din'd to day with ſeveral other Perſons of our

our Profeſſion, at a Merchant's Houſe of this City; who, after he had treated us with choice Dainties, and excellent Wines, ſent for Men and Women Dancers, and Muſicians. The great Noiſe we made brought in the Watch, who arreſted ſome of the Company, and we had the good Fortune to eſcape: But it being already late, and the Door of our *Khan* ſhut up, we knew not whether to retire. It was our Hap, as we paſt along this Street, to hear Mirth at your Houſe, which made us determine to Knock at your Gate. This is all the Account that we can give you in Obedience to your Commands.

Zobeide having heard this Diſcourſe, ſeem'd to heſitate upon what ſhe ſhould ſay, which the Calenders perceiving, pray'd her to grant the ſame Favour to the Three *Mouſſol* Merchants, as ſhe had done unto them. Well then, ſaid ſhe, I give my Conſent, for you ſhall all be equally oblig'd unto me: I Pardon you all, provided you depart immediately out of this Houſe, and go whither you pleaſe.

Zobeide having given this Command in a Tone that ſignified ſhe would be obeyed, the Calife, the Viſier, *Meſrour*, the Three Calenders, and the Porter, departed without ſaying one word: For the Preſence of the Seven Slaves, with their Weapons, kept them in awe. When they were out of the Houſe, and the Door ſhut, the Calife ſaid to the Calenders, without making himſelf known, You Gentlemen Strangers, that are newly come to Town, which way do you deſign to go, ſince it is not yet Day. 'Tis that which perplexes us, Sir, ſaid they; Follow us, replies the Calife, and we will bring you out of Danger. After ſaying

ing these words, he whisper'd to the Visier, Take them along with you, and to Morrow-Morning bring them to me, I will cause their History to be put in Writing, for it deserves a Place in the Annals of my Reign.

The Visier *Giafar* took the Three Calenders along with him; the Porter went to his Quarters, and the Calife and *Mesrour* return'd to the Palace: The Calife went to Bed, but could not get a wink of sleep, his Spirits were so strangely perplexed by the extraordinary Things he had seen and heard: But above all, he was most concern'd to know who *Zobeide* was, what reason she could have to be so severe to the two black Bitches, and why *Amine* had her Bosom so mortified. Day began to appear, whilst he was thinking upon those things, he arose and went to his Council-Chamber, where he used to give Audience, and sat upon his Throne.

The Grand Visier came in a little after, and paid his Respects, as usual. Visier, said the Calife, the Affairs that we have to consider at present are not very pressing, that of the three Ladies and the two black Bitches is much more so: My Mind cannot be at ease till I be throughly satisfied in all those Matters that have surprized me so much. Go bring these Ladies and the Calenders at the same time; make haste, and remember that I do impatiently expect your return.

The Visier that knew his Master's quick and fiery Temper, made haste to obey, and went to the Ladies, to whom he communicated, in a civil way, the Orders he had, to bring them before the Calife, without taking any notice of what had past the Night before at their House.

The

The Ladies put on their Vails, and went with the Viſier; as he paſt by his own Houſe, he took the three Calenders along with him, and they in the mean time, had got notice that they had both ſeen and ſpoke with the Caliſe, without knowing him. The Viſier brought them to the Palace with ſo much diligence, that the Caliſe was mighty well pleaſed at it. This Prince, that he might keep a Decorum before all the Officers of his Court that were then preſent, made thoſe Ladies to be plac'd behind the Hanging of the Door of the Room that was next his Bed-Chamber, and kept the three Calenders by him; who by their reſpectful Behaviour gave ſufficient Proof, that they were not ignorant before whom they had the Honour to appear.

When the Ladies were plac'd, the Caliſe turn'd towards them, and ſaid, Ladies, when I ſhall acquaint you that I came laſt Night diſguiſed, in a Merchant's Habit, into your Houſe, it will certainly allarm you, and make you to fear that you have offended me: And perhaps you believe that I have ſent for you to no other end, but to ſhow ſome marks of my Reſentment; but be not afraid, you may reſt aſſur'd, that I have forgot what was paſt, and am very well ſatisfied with your Conduct. I wiſh that all the Ladies of *Bagdad* had as much Diſcretion as you have given proof of before me. I ſhall always remember the Moderation you made uſe of, after the incivility that we had committed. I was then a Merchant of *Mouſſol*, but am at preſent *Haroun Alraſhid*, the Seventh Caliſe of the Glorious Houſe of *Abbas*, that holds the Place of our great Prophet. I have only ſent for you, to know who you are, and to ask you

ſo

for what Reaſon one of you, after ſeverely whipping the two black Bitches, did weep with them. And I am no leſs curious to know, why another of you has her Boſom all full of Scars.

Tho' the Caliſe pronounced theſe words very diſtinctly, and that the three Ladies heard him well enough, yet the Viſier *Giafar* did, out of Ceremony, repeat them over again.

But, Sir, ſaid *Scheherazade*, 'tis Day, and if your Majeſty thinks fit that I ſhall go on with the reſt of this Story, you will be pleaſed to prolong my Life until to Morrow. The Sultan agreed to it, knowing that *Scheherazade* would relate the Hiſtory of *Zobeide*, which he had a mighty deſire to hear.

The Sixty third Night.

DEAR Siſter, ſays *Dinarzade*, about break of Day, if you be not aſleep, pray tell us the Story of *Zobeide*; for doubtleſs that Lady told it to the Caliſe: She certainly did, ſays *Scheherazade*, after that Prince, by his Diſcourſe, had encouraged her to it. And it was in this manner that ſhe ſatisfied his Curioſity.

The Story of Zobeide.

COmmander of the Faithful, ſays ſhe, The Relation which I am about to give your Majeſty, is one of the ſtrangeſt that ever was heard. The two black Bitches, and my ſelf, are Siſters, by the ſame Father and Mother; and I ſhall acquaint you by what ſtrange Accident they came to be Metamorphoz'd. The two

two Ladies that live with me, and are now here, are alſo my Siſters by the Father's ſide, but by another Mother: She that has the Scars on her Breaſt her Name is *Amine*, the other is *Safie*, and mine *Zobeide*.

After our Father's death, the Eſtate that he left us was equally divided among us; and as ſoon as thoſe two Siſters received their Portions, they went from me to live with their Mother. My other two Siſters and my ſelf, ſtayed with our Mother, who was then alive, and when ſhe died left each of us a thouſand Sequins. As ſoon as we received our Portions, the two Elder (for I am the youngeſt) being Married, followed their Husbands, and left me alone. Some time after my eldeſt Siſters Husband ſold all that he had, and with that Money and my Siſters Portion they went both into *Africa*, where her Husband, by riotous Living and Debauchery, ſpent all; and finding himſelf reduced to Poverty, he found a Pretext for divorceing my Siſter, and put her away.

She return'd to this City, and having ſuffer'd incredible Hardſhips by the way, came to me in ſo lamentable a Condition, that it would have moved the hardeſt Heart to Compaſſion. I received her with all the Tenderneſs ſhe could expect, and enquiring into the Cauſe of her ſad Condition, ſhe told me with Tears, how inhumanly her Husband had dealt by her. I was ſo much concern'd at her Misfortune, that it drew Tears from my Eyes: I put her into a Bagnio, and clothed her with my own Apparel, and ſpoke to her thus. Siſter, you are my Elder, and I eſteem you as my Mother: During your Abſence, God has bleſt the Portion that fell to my Share; and the imployment I follow to

feed

feed and bring up Silk Worms. Aſſure your ſelf there's nothing I have but what is at your Service, and as much at your Diſpoſal as my own.

We lived very comfortably together for ſome Months, and as we were often diſcourſing togetber about our Third Siſter, and wondring we heard no News of her, ſhe came to ſee in as bad Condition as the Elder, her Husband had treated her after the ſame manner; and I received her likewiſe with the ſame Affection I had done the former.

Some time after, my two Siſters, on pretence that they would not be chargeable to me, told me they had thoughts to marry again. I anſwered them, that if their putting me to Charge was all the Reaſon, they might lay thoſe Thoughts aſide, and be very welcome to ſtay with me; for what I had would be ſufficient to maintain us all three anſwerable to our Condition: But ſays I, I rather believe you have a mind to Marry again, which if you have, I'm ſure 'twill very much ſurprize me; After the Experience you have had, of the ſmall ſatisfaction there is in Wedlock, is it poſſible you dare venture a ſecond time? You know how rare it is to meet with a Husband that is a real honeſt Man. Believe what I ſay, and let us ſtay together, and live as comfortably as we can. All my perſwaſion was in vain, they were reſolved to Marry, and ſo they did. But after ſome Months were paſt they came back again, and begg'd my Pardon a thouſand times, for not following my Advice, You are our younger Siſter, ſaid they, and abundantly more wiſe than we; but if you will vouchſafe to receive us once more into your Houſe

Houſe, and account us your Slaves, we ſhall never commit ſuch a Fault again. My Anſwer was, Dear Siſters, I have not alter'd my Mind with reſpect to you, ſince we laſt parted from one another; come again and take part of what I have. Upon this I embraced them, and we lived together as we did formerly.

We continued thus a whole Year in perfect Love and Tranquility; and ſeeing that God had encreaſed my ſmall Stock, I projected a Voyage by Sea, to hazard ſomewhat in Trade. To this end I went with my two Siſters to *Balſora*, where I bought a Ship ready fitted for Sea, and laded her with ſuch Merchandize as I brought from *Bagdad*; we ſet Sail with a fair Wind, and ſoon got through the *Perſian* Gulph; and when we got into the Ocean we ſteer'd our Courſe for the *Indies*, and ſaw Land the twentieth day. 'Twas a very high Mountain, at the bottom of which we ſaw a great Town; and having a freſh Gale, we ſoon reach'd the Harbour, where we caſt Anchor.

I had not Patience to ſtay till my Siſters were dreſt to go along with me, but went aſhore in the Boat by my ſelf; and making directly to the Gate of the Town, I ſaw there a great number of Men upon the Guard, ſome ſitting, and others ſtanding with Battons in their Hands; and they had all ſuch dreadful ountenances that it frightned me; but perceiving they had no Motion, nay, not ſo much as with their Eyes, I took Courage and went nearer, and then found they were all turn'd into Stones. I entred the Town, and paſs'd through ſeveral Streets, where there ſtood every where Men in ſeveral Poſtures, but all unmoveable and petrified. On that ſide where the Merchants lived I found moſt of the

Shops ſhut, and in ſuch as were open I likewiſe found the People Petrified. I look'd up the Chimnies, but ſaw no Smoke, which made me conjecture, that thoſe within, as well as thoſe without, were all turn'd into Stone.

Being come into a vaſt Square, in the Heart of the City, I perceived a great Gate cover'd with Plates of Gold, the two leaves of which ſtood open, and a Curtain of Silk Stuff ſeem'd to be drawn before it. I alſo ſaw a Lamp hanging over the Gate. After I had well conſider'd the Fabrick, I made no doubt but it was the Palace of the Prince who reigned over that Country: And being very much aſtoniſh'd that I had not met with one living Creature, I went thither in hopes to find ſome; I entred the Gate, and was ſtill more ſurprized, when I ſaw none but the Guards in the Porches all Petrified; ſome ſtanding, ſome ſitting, and ſome lying.

I croſs'd over a large Court, where I ſaw a ſtately Building juſt before me, the Windows of which were incloſed by Gates of maſſy Gold, I look'd upon it to be the Queen's Apartment, and went into a large Hall, where there ſtood ſeveral black Eunuchs turn'd into Stone. I went from thence into a Room richly Hung and Furniſh'd, where I perceiv'd a Lady in the ſame manner. I knew it to be the Queen by the Crown of Gold ſhe had upon her Head, and a Necklace of Pearl about her Neck, each of them as big as a Nut; I went cloſe up to her to view it, and never ſaw any thing finer.

I ſtood ſometime and admired the Riches and Magnificence of the Room, but above all, the Foot-cloth, the Cuſhions, and the Sofas, which were all lined with *Indian* Stuff of Gold, with Pictures

Pictures of Men and Beasts in Silver, drawn to admiration.

Scheherezade would have continued longer, but Day-light put a stop to her Discourse. The Sultan was mightily pleased with the Story, I must, said he, as he was getting out of Bed, know what all this wonderful Petrification of Men will at last come to.

The Sixty fourth Night.

Dinarzade was so extreamly pleas'd with the beginning of the Story of *Zobeide*, that she did not fail to call to the Sultaness before Day; If you be not asleep Sister, pray let us know what *Zobeide* saw more in this strange Palace; *Scheherazade* answer'd, The Lady continued her Story to the Calife in this manner.

Sir, said she, I went out of that Chamber where the Petrified Queen was, and came through several other Apartments and Closets richly furnish'd; and at last came into a vast large Room, where there stood a Throne of massy Gold, rais'd several Steps above the Floor, and enrich'd with large inchased Emeralds, and a Bed upon the Throne of rich Stuff, embroider'd with Pearls. That which surprized me more than all the rest, was a sparkling Light which came from above the Bed: Being curious to know from whence it came, I mounted the Steps, and lifting up my Head I saw a Diamond as big as the Egg of an Ostrich, lying upon a low Stool; it was so pure, that I could not find the least Blemish in it, and it sparkled so bright that I could not endure the Lustre of it, when I saw it by Day.

On each ſide of the Beds-head there ſtood a lighted Flambeau, but to what uſe I could not apprehend: However, it made me imagine that there was ſome living Creature in this Place; for I could not believe that theſe Torches continued thus burning of themſelves. Several other Rareties detain'd my Curioſity in this Room, which was ineſtimable, were it only for the Diamond I mention'd.

The Doors being all open, or but half ſhut, I ſurveyed ſome other Apartments that were as fine as thoſe I had already ſeen. I look'd into all the Offices and Store-Rooms which were full of Infinite Riches, and I was ſo much taken with the Sight of all theſe wonderful Things, that I forgot my ſelf, and did not think on my Ship or my Siſters; my whole Deſign was to ſatisfie my Curioſity: Mean time Night came on, which put me in mind that it was time to retire. I was for returning by the ſame way I came in, but I could not find it, I loſt my ſelf among the Apartments; and finding I was come back again to that large Room, where the Throne, the Couch, the large Diamond and the Torches ſtood, I reſolved to make my Nights Lodging there, and to depart the next Morning betimes to get aboard my Ship. I laid my ſelf down on the Couch, not without ſome dread to be alone in a wild Place; and this Fear hindred my Sleep.

About Midnight I heard a Voice like that of a Man reading the *Alcoran* after the ſame Manner, and in the ſame Tone as we uſe to read it in our *Moſques*. Being extream glad to hear it, I got up immediately, and taking a Torch in my Hand to light me, I paſt from one Chamber to another on that ſide where the Voice came

came from: I came to a Cloſet Door, where I ſtood ſtill, no wiſe doubting but it came from thence. I ſet down my Torch upon the Ground, and looking through a Window, I found it to be an Oratory. In ſhort, it had, as we have in our Mosks, a Niche, that ſhews where we muſt turn to ſay our Prayers: There were alſo Lamps hung up, and two Candleſticks with large Tapers of white Wax burning.

I ſaw a little Carpet laid down like thoſe we have to kneel upon when we ſay Prayers, and a comly young Man ſat upon this Carpet reading the *Alcoran*, which lay before him upon a Desk, with great Devotion. At the ſight of this I was tranſported with Admiration, I wondred how it came to paſs that he ſhould be the only living Creature in a Town where all the People were turn'd into Stones, and I did not doubt but there was ſomething in it very extraordinary.

The Door being only half ſhut, I open'd it and went in; and ſtanding upright before the Niche, I ſaid this Prayer aloud, *Praiſe be to God that has favoured us with a happy Voyage, and may he be graciouſly pleas'd to protect us in the ſame Manner until we arrive again in our own Country. Hear me, O Lord, and grant my Requeſt.*

The Young Man caſt his Eyes upon me, and ſaid, My good Lady, pray let me know who you are, and what has brought you to this deſolate City; and, in Requital, I will tell you who I am, what has happened to me, why the Inhabitants of this City are reduced to that State you ſee them in, and why I alone am ſafe and ſound in the midſt of ſuch a terrible Diſaſter.

I told him in few words from whence I came, what made me undertake the Voyage, and how I ſafely arriv'd at the Port after 20 days ſailing; and when I had done, I prayed him to perform his Promiſe, and told him how much I was ſtruck by the frightful Deſolation which I had ſeen in all places as I came along.

My dear Lady, ſays the Young Man, have patience for a Moment: At thoſe Words he ſhut the *Alcoran*, put it into a Rich Caſe, and laid it in the Niche. I took that opportunity to obſerve him, and perceived ſo much good Nature and Beauty in him, that I felt ſuch ſtrange Commotions in my ſelf as I never had done before. He made me ſit down by him, and before he began his Diſcourſes, I could not forbear ſaying to him, with an Air that diſcover'd the Sentiments I was inſpired with, Amiable Sir, dear Object of my Soul, I can ſcarce have patience to wait for an Account of all thoſe wonderful Things that I have ſeen ſince the firſt time I came into your City, and my Curioſity cannot be ſatisfied too ſoon, therefore, pray Sir, let me know by what Miracle you alone are left alive, among ſo many Perſons that have died in ſo ſtrange a Manner.

Scheherezade broke off here, and ſaid to *Schahriar*, Sir, perhaps Your Majeſty does not perceive it is Day, ſhould I continue my Diſcourſe any longer, I ſhould abuſe your Attention. The Sultan got up, reſolving next Night to hear the remainder of this Wonderful Story.

The Sixty fifth Night.

IF you be not aſleep, Siſter, ſays *Dinarzade* next Morning, before it was day, I would pray you to reſume the Story of *Zobeide*, and acquaint us what paſs'd betwixt her and the young Man, that ſhe found alive in that Palace you gave us ſo fine a Deſcription of. I will immediately ſatisfy you, ſaid the Sultaneſs. *Zobeide* went on with her Story thus:

Madam, ſays the you young Man, you have given me to underſtand that you have the knowledge of a true God, by the Prayer you juſt now addreſſed to him. I will acquaint you with a moſt remarkable Effect of his Greatneſs and Power. You muſt know that this City was the Metropolis of a mighty Kingdom, over which the King my Father did Reign. That Prince, his whole Court, the Inhabitants of the City, and all his other Subjects, were Magi, Worſhippers of Fire, and of *Nardoun* the ancient King of the Giants who rebell'd againſt God.

And tho' I was begotten and born of an Idolatrous Father and Mother, I had the good fortune in my Youth to have a Lady Governeſs, who was a good Muſſelman, I had the *Alcoran* by Heart, and underſtood the Explanation of it perfectly well. Dear Prince, would ſhe oftentimes ſay, There is but one true God, take heed that you do not acknowledge and adore any other. She learnt me to read *Arabick*, and the Book ſhe gave me to Exerciſe upon was the *Alcoran*. As ſoon as I was capable of underſtanding it, ſhe explain'd to me all the

Heads of this excellent Book, and infuſed it into my Mind unknown to my Father, or any Body elſe. She happened to die, but not before ſhe had perfectly inſtructed me in all that was neceſſary to convince me of the Muſſulman Religion. After her Death I perſiſted with conſtancy in the Belief I was in; and I abhor the falſe God *Nardoun*, and the adoration of Fire.

'Tis about three Years and ſome Months ago, that a thundering Voice was heard all on a ſudden, ſo diſtinctly, through the whole City, that no Body could miſs hearing it. The Words were theſe: *Inhabitants, abandon the Worſhip of* Nardoun, *and of Fire, and Worſhip the only God that ſhews Mercy.*

This Voice was heard three Years ſucceſſively, but no body was Converted: So the laſt Day of the Year, at Four a Clock in the Morning, all the Inhabitants in general were chang'd in an Inſtant into Stone, every one in the ſame condition and poſture they happen'd then to be in. The King, my Father, had the ſame Fate, for he was metamorphos'd into a black Stone, as he is to be ſeen in this Palace; and the Queen my Mother had the like Deſtiny.

I am the only Perſon that did not ſuffer under that heavy Judgment, and ever ſince I have continued to ſerve him with more fervency than before. I am perſuaded, dear Lady, that he has ſent you hither for my Comfort, for which I render him infinite Thanks, for I muſt own that this ſolitary Life is very uneaſie.

All theſe Expreſſions, and particularly the laſt, increaſed my love to him extreamly: Prince, ſaid I, there is no doubt but Providence hath brought me into your Port, to preſent you with an opportunity of withdrawing from

from this diſmal Place, the Ship that I am come in, may in ſome meaſure, perſuade you that I am in ſome Eſteem at *Bagdad*, where I have left alſo a conſiderable Eſtate, and I dare engage to promiſe you Sanctuary there, until the mighty Commander of the Faithful, who is Vicegerent to our Prophet, whom you acknowledge, do you the Honour that is due to your Merit. This renown'd Prince lives at *Bagdad*, and as ſoon as he is informed of your arrival in his Capital, you will find that it is not in vain to implore his Aſſiſtance. 'Tis impoſſible you can ſtay any longer in a City where all the Objects you ſee muſt renew your grief: My Veſſel is at your Service, where you may abſolutely Command as you ſhall think fit. He accepted the Offer, and we diſcours'd the remaining part of the Night about our Embarkment.

As ſoon as it was day we left the Palace, and came aboard my Ship, where we found my Siſters, the Captain, and my Slaves, all very much troubled for my abſence. After I had preſented my Siſters to the Prince, I told them what had hinder'd my return to the Veſſel the Day before, how I had met with the young Prince, his Story, and the cauſe of the deſolation of ſo fine a City.

The Seamen were taken up ſeveral days unlading the Merchandize I brought along with me, and embarking, inſtead of that, all the precious things in the Palace, as Jewels, Gold and Money. We left the Furniture and Goods, which conſiſted of an infinite quantity of Plate, *&c.* becauſe our Veſſel could not carry it, for it would have required ſeveral Veſſels more to carry all the Riches to *Bagdad*, that was in our option to take with us.

After we had laded the Veſſel with what we thought fit, we took ſuch Proviſions and Water aboard as were neceſſary for our Voyage, (for we had ſtill a great deal of thoſe Proviſions left that we took in at *Balſora*) at laſt we ſet Sail with a Wind as favourable as we could wiſh.

Here *Scheherazade* ſaw Day, and ſtopt her Diſcourſe: The Sultan aroſe without ſpeaking a Word, but he propos'd to himſelf to hear the end of *Zobeide*'s Story, and the wonderful Deliverance of this young Prince.

The Sixty ſixth Night.

WHen the enſuing Night was almoſt gone, *Dinarzade* being impatient to know the Succeſs of *Zobeide*'s Voyage, called to the Sultaneſs: My dear Siſter, Day begins to break, for God's ſake continue the Story of yeſternight, and tell us whether the young Prince and *Zobeide* arived ſafe at *Bagdad*. I will, ſays *Scheherazade*, *Zobeide* addreſſing her ſelf to the Caliſe went on thus:

Sir, ſaid ſhe, The young Prince, my Siſters, and my ſelf, enjoy'd our ſelves for ſome time very agreeable: But alas! this good Underſtanding did not laſt long, for my Siſters grew jealous of the Friendſhip between the Prince and me, and maliciouſly asked me one Day, what we ſhould do with him when we came to *Bagdad*? I perceived immediately that they put this Queſtion to me on purpoſe to diſcover my Inclinations, therefore reſolving to put it off with a Jeſt, I anſwer'd them, I will take him for my Husband; and upon that, turning my ſelf to the Prince, Sir, I humbly beg of you to

give

give your Conſent, for as ſoon as we come to *Bagdad*, I deſign to offer you my Perſon to be your Slave, to do you all the Service that is in my Power, and to reſign my ſelf wholly to your Commands.

The Prince Anſwer'd, I know not, Madam, whether you be in jeſt or no; but for my own part, I ſeriouſly declare before theſe Ladies your Siſters, That from this Moment I heartily accept your Offer, not with any intention to have you as a Slave, but as my Lady and Miſtreſs; nor will I pretend to have any Power over your Actions. At theſe Words my Siſters chang'd colour, and I could perceive afterwards, that they did not love me as formerly.

We were come into the *Perſian* Gulf, and not far from *Balſora*, where I hoped, conſidering the fair Wind, we might have arrived the Day following; but in the Night, when I was aſleep, my Siſters watch'd their time, and threw me overboard. They did the ſame to the Prince, who was drown'd. I ſwam ſome Minutes on the Water, but by good Fortune, or rather by Miracle, I felt ground. I went towards a black Place, that by what I could diſcern in the dark ſeem'd to be Land, and actually was a Flat on the Coaſt, which when day came I found to be a Deſart Iſland, lying about twenty Miles from *Balſora*. I ſoon dried my Cloaths in the Sun, and as I walked along I found ſeveral ſorts of Fruit, and likewiſe freſh Water, which gave me ſome hopes of preſerving my Life.

I laid my ſelf down in a ſhade, and ſoon after I ſaw a winged Serpent, very large and long, coming towards me, wriggling to the right and to the left, and hanging out his Tongue, which made

made me think he had got ſome Hurt, I aroſe and ſaw a Serpent larger than he following him, holding him by the Tail, and endeavouring to devour him: I had Compaſſion on him, and inſtead of flying away, I had the Boldneſs and Courage to take up a Stone that by chance lay by me, and threw it at the great Serpent with all my Strength, whom I hit on the Head, and kill'd him. The other finding himſelf at liberty, took to his Wings and flew away: I look'd along while after him in the Air, as being ſuch an extraordinary thing; but he flew out of ſight, and I lay down again in another place of the Shade and fell aſleep.

When I awak'd, judge how I was ſurpriz'd to ſee a black Woman by me, of a lively and agreeable Complexion, who held two Bitches tied together in her Hand, of the ſame Colour, I ſat up and ask'd her who ſhe was; I am, ſaid ſhe, the Serpent whom you delivered not long ſince from my Mortal Enemy. I knew not how to acknowledge the great kindneſs you did me, but by doing what I have done. I knew the Treachery of your Siſters, and to revenge you on them, aſſoon as I was ſet at Liberty by your generous Aſſiſtance, I call'd ſeveral of my Companions together, Faries like my ſelf, we have carried all the Lading that was in your Veſſel into your Store-houſes at *Bagdad*, and afterwards ſunk it.

Theſe two black Bitches are your Siſters, whom I have transformed into this Shape: But this Puniſhment is not ſufficient, for I will have you to treat them after ſuch a manner as I ſhall direct.

At theſe words the Farie took me faſt under one of her Arms, and the two Bitches in the other

other, and carried us to my Houſe in *Bagdad*, where I found all the Riches which were loaden on board my Veſſel in my Store-houſes. Before ſhe left me, ſhe deliver'd me the two Bitches, and told me, If you will not be chang'd into a Bitch, as they are, I ordain you in the Name of him that governs the Sea, to give each of your Siſters every Night, an 100 lathes with a Rod, for the Puniſhment of the Crime they have committed againſt your Perſon, and the young Prince whom they drown'd. I was forced to promiſe that I would obey her Order. Since that time I have whipt them every Night, though with Regret, whereof your Majeſty has been a Witneſs. I give Evidence by my Tears, with how much Sorrow and Reluctancy I muſt perform this cruel Duty; and in this your Majeſty may ſee I am more to be pitied than blamed. If there be any thing elſe, with relation to my ſelf, that you deſire to be inform'd of, my Siſter *Amine* will give you the full diſcovery of it, by the Relation of her Story.

After the Calife had heard *Zobeide* with a great deal of Aſtoniſhment, he deſired his Grand Viſier to pray fair *Amine* to acquaint him wherefore her Breſt was mark'd ſo with many Scars.

But, Sir, ſays *Scheherazade*, it is day, and I dare not detain your Majeſty any longer. *Schahriar* being perſwaded that the Story which *Scheherazade* was to relate would explain the former, ſaid to himſelf, I muſt have the Pleaſure of hearing this Story out: Upon which he aroſe, and reſolved that *Scheherazade* ſhould live one day longer.

The

The Sixty ſeventh Night.

Dinarzade was in a longing Condition to hear the Story of *Amine*, and therefore awak'd the Sultaneſs a long while before Day, ſaying, Dear Siſter, pray let us know why fair *Amine* had her Breaſt ſo cover'd with Scars: I conſent to it, ſays the Sultaneſs, and that no time may be loſt, you muſt know that *Amine* addreſſed her ſelf to the Caliſe, and began her Story after this manner.

The Story of Amine.

COmmander of the Faithful, ſays ſhe, To avoid repeating what your Majeſty has already heard by my Siſters Story, I ſhall only add, that after my Mother had taken a Houſe for her ſelf to live in during her Widowhood, ſhe gave me in Marriage, with the Portion my Father left me, to a Gentleman that had one of the beſt Eſtates in this City.

I had ſcarce been a Year Married when I became a Widow, and was left in Poſſeſſion of all my Husband's Eſtate, which amounted to 90 thouſand Sequins. The Intereſt of this Money was ſufficient to maintain me very honourably. In the mean time, when my firſt ſix Months Mourning was over, I caus'd to be made me ten Sutes of Clothes very rich, ſo that each Sute came to a thouſand Sequins; and when the Year was paſt I began to wear them.

One Day as I was buſie all alone about my private Affairs there came one and told me, that a Lady deſired to ſpeak with me, I order'd them

them to bring her in: She was a Perſon well ſtricken in Years, ſhe ſaluted me, by kiſſing the Ground, and told me kneeling, Dear Lady, Pray excuſe the freedom I take to trouble you, the Confidence I have in your Charity makes me thus bold; I muſt acquaint your Ladyſhip, that I have a Daughter an Orphan, who is to be Married this Day; ſhe and I are both Strangers, and have no Acquaintance at all in this Town: This puts us into a mighty perplexity, for we would have the numerous Family, with whom we are going to Ally our ſelves, to think we are not altogether Strangers, and without Credit: Therefore, moſt bountiful Lady, if you would vouchſafe to honour the Wedding with your Preſence, we ſhall be infinitely oblig'd to you; becauſe the Ladies of your Country will then know that we are not look'd upon here as deſpicable Wretches, when they ſhall come to underſtand, that a Lady of your Quality did us that Honour. But alas, Madam, if you refuſe my Requeſt, we ſhall be altogether diſgraced, and dare not addreſs our ſelves to any other.

This poor Woman's diſcourſe, mixt with Tears, mov'd my Compaſſion: Good Woman, ſaid I, do not afflict your ſelf, I am willing to grant you the Favour you deſire, tell me what place I muſt come to, and I will meet you as ſoon as I am dreſt. The old Woman was ſo tranſported with Joy at my anſwer, that ſhe kiſs'd my Feet, without my being able to hinder it. Good charitable Lady, ſaid ſhe, riſing up, God will reward the Kindneſs you have ſhew'd to your Servants, and make your Heart as joyful as you have made theirs. It's too ſoon yet to give your ſelf that Trouble, it will be time enough when I come to call you in the Evening.

So farewel, Madam, ſaid ſhe, till I ſhall have the Honour to ſee you again.

As ſoon as ſhe was gone, I took the Sute I liked beſt, with a Necklace of large Pearl, Bracelets, Pendants in my Ears, and Rings ſet with the fineſt and moſt ſparkling Diamonds; for my Mind preſaged what would befal me.

When Night drew on, the old Woman came to call me with a Countenance full of Joy, ſhe kiſt my Hands, and ſaid, My dear Lady, The Relations of my Son in-Law, who are the principal Ladies of the Town, are now met together, you may come when you pleaſe, I am ready to wait upon you. We went immediately, ſhe going before, and I followed her with a good number of my Maids and Slaves very well dreſt: We ſtopt in a large Street newly ſwept and water'd, at a large Gate with a Lanthorn before it, by the Light of which I could read this Inſcription over the Gate, in Golden Letters, *Here is the abode of everlaſting Pleaſures and Content.* The old Woman knock'd, and the Gate was open'd immediately.

They brought me to the lower end of the Court, into a large Hall, where I was received by a young Lady of incomparable Beauty: ſhe came up to me, and after having embraced me, and made me ſit down by her upon a Sofa, where there was a Throne of precious Wood, beſet with Diamonds. Madam, ſaid ſhe, you are brought hither to aſſiſt at a Wedding, but I hope this Marriage will prove otherwiſe than that you expected. I have a Brother, one of the handſomeſt Men in the World, he is fall'n ſo much in Love with the Fame of your Beauty, that his Fate depends ſolely upon you, and will be the unhappieſt of Men, if you do not take

Pity

Pity on him. He knows your Quality, and I can assure you that his is no wise unworthy of your Alliance. If my Prayers, Madam, can prevail, I shall join them with his, and humbly beg you will not refuse the offer, of being his Wife.

After the Death of my Husband I had no thoughts of Marrying again: But I had no Power to refuse the Offer made by so charming a Lady. Assoon as I had given Consent, by silence, accompanied with a Blush, the young Lady clapt her Hands, and immediately a Closet Door open'd, out of which came a young Man of a Majestick Air, and so graceful a Behaviour, that I thought my self happy to have made so great a Conquest. He sat down by me, and by the Discourse we had together, I found that his Merits far exceeded the Account his Sister had give me of him.

When she saw that we were satisfied one with another, she clapt her Hands a second Time, and out came a Cadis or Scrivner, who wrote our Contract of Marriage, signed it himself, and caused it to be attested by four Witnesses he brought along with him. The only thing that my new Spouse made me promise was, That I should not be seen, nor speak with any other Man but himself; and he vowed to me upon that Condition, that I should have no reason to complain of him. Our Marriage was concluded and finished after this Manner, so I became the principal Actress of a Wedding whereunto I was only invited as a Guest.

After we had been Married a Month, I had occasion for some Stuffs, I asked my Husband's leave to go out and buy them, which he granted; and I took that old Woman along with me,

of

of whom I ſpoke before, ſhe being one of the Family, and two of my own Female Slaves.

When we came to the Street where Merchants dwell, the old Woman told me, Dear Miſtreſs, ſince you want Silk Stuffs, I muſt carry you to a young Merchant of my Acquaintance, he has of all ſorts, and it will prevent your wearying your ſelf, by going from one Shop to another. I can aſſure you that he is able to furniſh you with that which no body elſe can. I was eaſily perſwaded, and we entred into a Shop belonging to a Young Merchant, a Man likely enough; I ſat down, and bid the old Woman deſire him to ſhow me the fineſt Silk Stuffs he had: The Woman bid me ſpeak my ſelf, but I told her it was one of the Articles of my Marriage Contract, not to ſpeak to any Man but my Husband, which I ought to keep.

The Merchant ſhew'd me ſeveral Stuffs, of which one pleaſed me better than the reſt; I bid her ask the Price. He anſwer'd the old Woman, I will not ſell it for Gold or Money, but I will make her a Preſent of it, if ſhe will give me leave to kiſs her Cheek. I bid the old Woman tell him, that he was very rude to propoſe ſuch a thing. But inſtead of obeying me, ſhe ſaid, What the Merchant deſires of you is no ſuch great Matter, you need not ſpeak, but only preſent him your Cheek, and the buſineſs will ſoon be done. The Stuff pleaſed me ſo much, that I was fooliſh enough to take her Advice. The old Woman and my Slaves ſtood up that no Body ſhould ſee it, and I put up my Vail; but inſtead of a Kiſs, the Merchant bit me till the Blood came.

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The Pain and Surprize was ſo great, that I fell down in a Swoon, and continued in it ſo long that the Merchant had time to ſhut his Shop and fly for it. When I came to my ſelf I found my Cheek all Bloody: The old Woman and my Slaves took care to cover it with my Vail, that the People that came about us could not perceive it, but ſuppoſed it to be only a fainting Fit.

Scheherazade, as ſhe ſpoke theſe words, perceived Day and held her Peace. The Sultan finding the Relation very extraordinary and pleaſant, roſe up with a deſign to hear the reſt of it.

The Sixty eighth Night.

WHEN next Night was near an end, *Dinarzade*, awak'd, and called to the Sultaneſs, If you pleaſe, Siſter, pray continue the Story of *Amine*. *Scheherazade* anſwer'd, The Lady reſum'd it thus:

The old Woman that was with me being extreamly troubled at the Accident, endeavour'd to Comfort me; My dear Miſtreſs, ſaid ſhe, I beg your Pardon, for I am the cauſe of this Misfortune, having brought you to this Merchant, becauſe he is my Countryman; but I never thought he could be capable of ſuch a villanous Action. But do not grieve, let us make haſte to go Home, I will give you a Medicine that ſhall perfectly cure you in 3 days time, ſo that the leaſt Mark ſhall not be ſeen. The Fit had made me ſo weak, that I was ſcarce able to walk: But at laſt I got home, where I had a ſecond Fit, as I went into my Chamber.

Mean

Mean while the old Woman applied her Remedy, ſo that I came to my ſelf, and went to Bed.

My Husband came to me at Night, and ſeeing my Head bound up, ask'd me the Reaſon? I told him I had the Head-ach, and hoped he would enquire no farther; but he took a Candle and ſaw my Cheek was hurt: How comes this Wound, ſaid he? And tho' I was not very guilty, yet I could not think of owning the thing: Beſides, to make ſuch a Confeſſion to a Husband, I thought was ſomewhat undecent; therefore I told him, that as I was going to ſeek for that Stuff you gave me leave to buy, a Porter, carrying a Load of Wood, came ſo cloſe by me as I went through a narrow Street, that one of the Sticks gave me a rub on my Cheek, but it is not much hurt. This put my Husband into ſuch a Paſſion, that he vow'd it ſhould not go unpuniſh'd; for I will to Morrow give Order to the Lieutenant of the Police to ſeize upon all thoſe Brutes of Porters, and cauſe them to be hang'd. Being afraid to occaſion the death of ſo many innocent Perſons, I told him, Sir, I ſhould be ſorry that ſo great a piece of Injuſtice ſhould be committed. Pray don't do it, for I ſhould judge my ſelf unpardonable if I were the Cauſe of ſo much Miſchief. Then tell me ſincerely, ſaid he, how came you by this Wound? I anſwer'd, that it came by the Inadvertency of a Broomſeller upon an Aſs, who coming behind me and looking another way, his Aſs gave me ſuch a puſh, that I fell down and hurt my Cheek upon ſome Glaſs: Is it ſo ſaid my Husband? Then to Morrow Morning before Sun riſing the Grand Viſier, *Giafar*, ſhall have an Account of this Inſolence, and he ſhall cauſe all

the

the Broomſellers to be put to Death. For the Love of God Sir, ſaid I, Let me beg of you to pardon them, for they are not guilty. How Madam, ſaid he, What is it I muſt believe? Speak, for I am abſolutely reſolved to know the Truth from your own Mouth. Sir, ſaid I, I was taken with the Giddineſs, and fell down; and that's the whole Matter.

At theſe laſt Words my Husband loſt all Patience. Oh! Cry'd he, I have given ear to your Lies too long; with that, clapping his Hands, in came three Slaves: Pull her out of Bed, ſaid he, and lay her on the middle of the Floor. The Slaves obeyed his Orders, one holding me by the Head, another by my Feet; he commanded the third to fetch him a Scimiter, and when he had brought it, Strike, ſaid he, Cut her in two in the middle, and then throw her into the *Tigris* to feed the Fiſhes. This is the Puniſhment I give to thoſe to whom I have given my Heart, if they falſifie their Promiſe. When he ſaw that the Slave made no haſte to obey his Orders, Why do you not ſtrike, ſaid he? Who is it that holds you? What art thou waiting for?

Madam then, ſaid the Slave, You are near the laſt Moment of your Life, conſider if you have any thing to diſpoſe of before you Die. I begg'd leave to ſpeak one Word, which was granted me. I lift up my Head, and looking wiſhfully to my Husband, Alas! ſaid I, to what Condition am I reduced, muſt I then Die in the Prime of my Youth? I could ſay no more, for my Tears and Sighs prevented me. My Husband was not at all moved, but on the contrary went on to reproach me; ſo that to have made an Anſwer, would have been in vain. I had

had recourſe to Intreaties and Prayers, but he had no regard to them, and commanded the Slaves to proceed to Execution. The old Woman that had been his Nurſe came in juſt at that Moment, fell down upon her Knees, and endeavour'd to appeaſe his Wrath: My Son, ſaid ſhe, Since I have been your Nurſe and brought you up, let me beg the Favour of you to grant me her Life; conſider, that he who kills ſhall be kill'd, and that you will ſtain your Reputation, and loſe the Eſteem of Mankind. What will not the World ſay of ſuch a bloody Rage: She ſpoke theſe words in ſuch a taking way, accompanied with Tears, that ſhe gain'd upon him at laſt.

Well then, ſays he to his Nurſe, for your Sake I will ſpare her Life, but ſhe ſhall carry ſome Marks along with her to make her remember her Crime; with that one of his Slaves, by his Order, gave me ſo many Blows as hard as he could ſtrike with a little Cane upon my Sides and Breaſt, that he fetch'd both Skin and Fleſh away, ſo that I lay Senſeleſs; after that he cauſed the ſame Slaves, the Executioners of his Fury, to carry me into a Houſe where the old Woman took care of me. I kept my Bed four Months; at laſt I recover'd, but the Scars you ſaw yeſterday againſt my Will have remained ever ſince.

As ſoon as I was able to walk and go abroad, I reſolved to go to the Houſe which was my own by my firſt Husband, but I could not find the Place. My ſecond Husband, in the Heat of his Wrath, was not content to have it razed to the Ground, but caus'd all the Street where it ſtood to be pull'd down. I believe ſuch a violent Proceeding was never heard of before;

but

but againſt whom ſhould I make my Complaint. The Author had taken ſuch Care that he was not to be found, neither could I know him again if I ſaw him: And ſuppoſe I had known him, is it not eaſily to be ſeen that the Treatment I met with proceeded from abſolute Power; then how dar'd I make any Complaints?

Being deſolate and unprovided of every thing, I had recourſe to my dear Siſter *Zobeide*, who gave your Majeſty juſt now an Account of her Adventures; to her I made known my Misfortunes, ſhe received me with her accuſtomed Goodneſs, and adviſ'd me to bear it with Patience. This is the way of the World, ſaid ſhe, which either robs us of our Means, our Friends or our Lovers, and oftentimes of all at once: And at the ſame time, to confirm what ſhe had ſaid, ſhe gave me an Account of the loſs of the young Prince, occaſion'd by the Jealouſy of her two Siſters; ſhe told me alſo by what Accident they were transformed into Bitches: And in the laſt place, after a thouſand Teſtimonies of her Love towards me, ſhe ſhew'd me my youngeſt Siſter, who had likewiſe taken Sanctuary with her, after the Death of our Mother.

Thus we gave God thanks, that had brought us together again, reſolving to live a ſingle Life and never to ſeparate any more, for we have enjoyed this peaceable way of living a good many Years: And as it was my buſineſs to mind the Affairs of the Houſe, I always took Pleaſure to go my ſelf and buy in what we wanted. I happen'd to go abroad Yeſterday, and the Things I bought I caus'd to be brought home by a Porter, who proved to be a ſenſible and a jocoſe Fellow,

Fellow, and we kept him by us for a little Diverſion. Three Calenders happen'd to come to our Door, as it began to grow dark, and pray'd us to give them ſhelter till next Morning: We gave them entrance, but upon certain Conditions, which they agreed unto; and after we had made them ſit down at the Table by us, they gave us a Conſort of Muſick after their Faſhion, and at the ſame time we heard knocking at our Gate. Theſe were the three Merchants of *Mouſſol*, Men of a very good Mein, who begg'd the ſame Favour which the Calenders had obtain'd before: We conſented to it upon the ſame Conditions, but neither of them kept to their Promiſe; and though we had Power, as well as Juſtice on our ſide, to puniſh them, yet we contented our ſelves with demanding from them the Hiſtory of their Lives, and conſequently bounded our Revenge with diſmiſſing them, after they had done, and deprived them of the Lodging they demanded.

The Calife, *Haroun Alraſhid*, was very well ſatisfied with theſe ſtrange Stories, and declared publickly his Aſtoniſhment at what he had heard.

But, Sir, ſaid *Scheherazade*, day begins to break, ſo that I have no time to acquaint your Majeſty what the Calife did, to put an end to the Enchantments of the two black Bitches, *Schahriar* ſuppoſing that the Sultaneſs would quite finiſh the Story of the five Ladies, and the three Calenders the next Night, roſe up, and ſuffer'd her to live till next Morning.

The

The Sixty ninth Night.

FOR the love of Heaven, Sister, cried *Dinarzade*, before it was day, if you be not asleep, tell us how the Two black Bitches were brought to their former Shape, and what became of the Three Calenders. I will satisfy your Curiosity, said *Scheherazade*: Then addressing her Discourse to *Schahriar*, she pursued it thus.

Sir, the Calife having satisfied his Curiosity, thought himself obliged to give some Marks of Grandeur and Generosity to the Calender Princes, and also to give the Three Ladies some Proofs of his Bounty. He himself, without making use of his Minister, the Grand Visier, spoke to *Zobeide*, Madam, This Fairy, that shew'd her self to you in the shape of a Serpent, and impos'd such a rigorous Command upon you; did she not tell you where her place of abode was, or rather, did she not promise to come again to see you, and restore those Bitches to their natural Shape?

Commander of the Faithful, answer'd *Zobeide*, I forget to tell your Majesty, that the Fairy left with me a Bundle of Hair, saying withal, That her Presence would one day stand me in stead, and then, if I only burnt two Tufts of this Hair, she would be with me in a Moment, though she were beyond Mount *Caucasus*. Madam, says the Calife, where is that Bundle of Hair? she answer'd, Ever since that time I have had such a particular care of it, that I carry it always about

me: Upon which she pull'd it out, open'd the Case a little where it was, and shew'd it him. Well then, said the Calife, let us make the Fairy come hither, you could not call her in a better time, for I long to see her.

Zobeide having consented to it, Fire was brought in, and she threw the whole Bundle of Hair into it: The Palace begun to shake at that very Instant, and the Fairy appeared before the Calife in the shape of a Lady very richly dress't.

Commander of the Faithful, said she, to the Prince, you see I am ready to come and receive your Commands. The Lady who gave me this call, by your Order, did me a particular piece of Service; and to make my Gratitude appear, I reveng'd her of her Sisters Inhumanity, by changing them into Bitches: But if your Majesty commands it, I will restore them to their natural Shape.

Handsom Fairy, said the Calife, you cannot do me a greater Pleasure, vouchsafe them that Favour, and after that I will find out some means to comfort them for their hard Penance. But besides, I have another Boon to ask in favour of that Lady, who has had such cruel Usage from an unknown Husband: And as you undoubtedly know a great many things, we have reason to believe that you cannot be ignorant of this, oblige me with the Name of this barbarous Fellow, that could not be contented to exercise his great Cruelty upon her Person, but has also most unjustly taken from her all the Substance she had; I only admire how such an unjust and inhumane Action could be performed in spight of my Authority, and not come to my Ears.

To ſerve your Majeſty, anſwered the Fairy, I will reſtore the two Bitches to their former State, and I will cure the Lady of her Scars, that it ſhall never appear ſhe was ſo beat; and at laſt I will tell you who it was that did it.

The Caliſe ſent for the Two Bitches from *Zobeide*'s Houſe, and when they came, a Glaſs of Water was brought to the Fairy, upon her deſire; ſhe pronounc'd ſome Words over it, which no body underſtood: Then throwing ſome part of it upon *Amine*, and the reſt upon the Bitches, the latter became Two Ladies of ſurpriſing Beauty, and the Scars that were upon *Amine* vaniſhed away. After which the Fairy ſaid to the Caliſe; *Commander of the Faithful*, I muſt now diſcover to you the unknown Husband you inquire after; he is very near related to your ſelf, for it is Prince *Amin* your eldeſt Son, who falling paſſionately in love with this Lady, by the Fame he had heard of her Beauty, he, by an Intrigue, got her brought to his Houſe, where he married her. As to the Strokes he caus'd to be given her, he is in ſome manner excuſable; for the Lady his Spouſe had been a little too eaſy, and the Excuſes ſhe had made were capable to make him believe ſhe was more faulty than really ſhe was. This is all I can ſay, to ſatisfy your Curioſity; and at theſe words ſhe ſaluted the Caliſe and vaniſhed.

That Prince being fill'd with Admiration, and having much ſatisfaction in the Change that had happen'd through his Means, did ſuch things as will perpetuate his Memory to all Ages. Firſt, He ſent for his Son *Amin*, and told him, that he was informed of his ſecret Marriage, and how he had wounded *Amine* upon a very ſlight Cauſe. Upon this the

Prince

Prince did not wait for his Father's Commands, but received her again immediately.

After which the Caliſe declared, that he would give his own Heart and Hand to *Zobeide*, and offer'd the other Three Sisters to the Calenders, that were Kings Sons, who accepted them for their Brides with a great deal of Joy. The Caliſe assigned each of them a magnificent Palace in the City of *Bagdad*, promoted them to the higheſt Dignities of his Empire, and admitted them to his Council.

The Town Clerk of *Bagdad* being call'd, with Witneſſes, wrote the Contracts of Marriage; and the famous Caliſe *Haroun Alraſhid*, by making the Fortunes of ſo many Perſons, that had undergone ſuch incredible Calamities, drew a Thouſand Bleſſings upon himſelf.

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FINIS.